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ARAB TIMES

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Fighting rages across Romania; Ceausescu caught, will stand trial Civil war — 12,000 known dead



The body of an unidentified soldier who joined the uprising in Romania lies on the morgue floor at the emergency hospital. (Reuter wirephoto)

Bodies everywhere; truckloads of coffins

BUCHAREST, Dec 23, (Agencies): Nicolae Ceausescu and his wife Elena were captured by the army today, a day after a popular revolt swept them from power, their opponents announced on television.

The announcement came as fierce fighting raged around the country between army troops backing the revolt and well-equipped elite police units loyal to Ceausescu. Hundreds of lives were lost as the battles continued.

As foreign embassies, including the Soviet mission, were damaged in the fighting, Ion Iliescu, announced on television that the "dictatorial family, Nicolae and Elena Ceausescu, was captured."

Referring to Ceausescu as a "poison hyena," he said the former president, who had ruled since 1965, and his wife, the second most powerful person in the country under the old regime, would be tried.

Also captured were Emil Bobu, the third most powerful person in the country, who assumed command when the Ceausescus were travelling abroad, and Ceausescu's brother, Ilie, formerly a deputy defence minister, Iliescu said.

Romanian radio, which like the television fell into the hands of anti-Ceausescu forces yesterday, also swiftly reported the announcement of the ousted president's capture.

Yesterday, there were several conflicting reports about the Ceausescus' whereabouts, with initial announcements of their capture giving way later to speculation they were directing resistance to the revolt from a hideout outside Bucharest, or had fled the country.

Today's announcement was the first definite word from the opposition that Ceausescu was in their hands. They gave no details on how or where the 71-year-old ex-leader was caught, or where he was being held.

Soviet television said late tonight that security forces loyal to Ceausescu had been parachuted into the city of Timisoara and blood was still flowing there.

"Shots are being fired again in Timisoara," a report on the main evening news programme said shortly after 9 pm (1800 GMT).

In Budapest, the Hungarian news agency MTI quoted a Czechoslovak eyewitness as saying units of Ceausescu's Securitate Secret Police were shooting from Timisoara's opera house and had broken into a town clinic and killed a doctor.

The eyewitness, Lazlo Barak, said he saw many people killed and wounded by bullets and machine gun fire where he was delivering medical supplies brought in a convoy of ambulances from Czechoslovakia.

The Soviet television comments came at the end of a report, recorded earlier in the evening, showing jubilant, cheering crowds in the city celebrating the fall of Ceausescu and chanting "perestroika, perestroika."

"We left in order to transmit our material to Moscow," the Soviet television said.

"Already on the way to Belgrade we heard radio reports that, finally an hour before dawn, there was an air drop into Timisoara of Romanian security forces who remain loyal to Ceausescu."

The Czechoslovak eyewitness, quoted by MTI, also said shooting was continuing in Arad, some 50 km (30 miles) north of Timisoara.

In Moscow, Soviet President Mikhail S. Gorbachev appealed to Warsaw Pact nations to co-operate in devising "co-ordinated efforts in providing support to the people of Romania," the official Tass news agency reported.

Hungarian Foreign Minister Gyula Horn told Hungarian television that Hungary had requested an urgent meeting of the UN Security Council on Romania. He first said Warsaw Pact foreign ministers would discuss Romania tomorrow, but then announced that meeting was scrapped because "the situation shows signs of stabilisation."

The Soviet Union all but ruled out military intervention but offered medical and other non-lethal aid, the agency reported today.

In a reference to continued blood-letting in the streets, front spokesman Ion Iliescu said on Bucharest radio that he hoped the "viper's dying screams will soon cease."

The death toll after three days of virtual civil war remained unclear but Western correspondents saw bodies littering the streets of Bucharest and truckloads of coffins were taken to hospitals for the dead.

The Yugoslav news agency Tanjug said 12,000 people had been killed this week in the city of Timisoara, where the rebellion began.

Today's fighting in Bucharest centred on a 2 km (1.3 mile) area in the city centre. Some of the fiercest battles have taken place near the main television station, where the new student and intellectual-led salvation front has made its base.

'Anarchy' rules Panama streets Resistance mounts

PANAMA CITY, Dec 23, (Agencies): A US jet bombed a resistance position today and the US decided to reinforce its troops after its headquarters were attacked by forces loyal to ousted leader Gen Manuel Antonio Noriega.

Anarchy ruled the streets and residents set up vigilante squads to protect their homes and businesses from looters who have plundered Panama City and from the paramilitary Dignity Battalions loyal to Noriega.

The US plane repeatedly bombed a hilltop position before dawn at 4.00 am (0800 GMT) in the working-class district of San Miguelito, site of the Panamanian military garrison of Tinajitas. Witnesses said the bombing run lasted about five minutes and the plane apparently did not draw ground fire.

Civilians manned street barricades overnight to prevent the Dignity Battalions from sacking homes and stealing cars. In some areas Friday, the paramilitaries went door to door to demand car keys and loot homes.

Members of the battalions tried to assassinate the US-installed first Vice-President of Panama, Ricardo Arias Calderon, yesterday, firing on his car as he left the national assembly. He was not hurt, but two aides were wounded, another aide said.

US forces entering the port city of Colon to stop looting accepted the surrender of 200 members of the Panamanian Defence Forces, according to US reporters allowed to travel with the US military. A cache of weapons was also seized there, the reporters said.

The United States sent 2,000 more troops into Panama today to help 23,000 soldiers already there to battle against stubborn and growing resistance apparently directed by fugitive Noriega.

Despite American hopes that Panama would be quickly under the control of its new, US-installed government, fighting picked up on the fourth day of the invasion, with a US embassy official saying there was considerable gunfire near the embassy.



That's all ... so far

An American soldier displays what is thought to be Noriega's helmet outside the Commandancia in Panama City. Noriega is the only PDF four-star general. The helmet was in the Commandancia when the building was taken in the US military offensive. (Reuter wirephoto)

Computer Co. in the chase 'Find Noriega' — a game

PORTLAND, Oregon, Dec 23, (UPI): An American computer software company wasted no time yesterday in introducing "Find Noriega," a game that sends the player on a chase after the ousted Panamanian leader, seeking clues from agents of the Central Intelligence Agency.

"Follow all the exciting episodes from the first non-capture to the last non-capture, as Noriega breathlessly slips through the fingers of the CIA and US armed forces time and time again," said a news release on the game, part of the Adventure of Learning collection from Abracadabra Ltd. of Eugene, Oregon.

To make the task more challenging, the computer-created Manuel Noriega plants look-alikes to confuse trackers, product manager Nancy West explained.

Players can intercept top-secret coded messages from the CIA to President Bush and fight off screaming fans at Graceland in Memphis, Tennessee, to discover Noriega — or his look-alike — disguised as Elvis Presley, the king of rock 'n' roll.

Weather

FAIR weather with light north-westerly wind.

State of sea: Slight
High water: 10.15 am, 8.35 pm
Low water: 3.50 am, 2.30 pm
Sunrise: 6.40 am
Sunset: 4.56 pm

Maximum temperatures recorded:
Kuwait: 19°C 66°F
Ahmad: 17°C 63°F
Falka: 18°C 64°F

Minimum temperatures recorded:
Kuwait: 7°C 45°F
Ahmad: 12°C 54°F
Falka: 10°C 50°F

Maximum temperatures expected:
Kuwait: 19°C 66°F
Ahmad: 18°C 64°F
Falka: 18°C 64°F

Maximum humidity recorded:
Kuwait: 85 per cent
Ahmad: 55 per cent
Falka: 68 per cent

DAY BY DAY

ON THE occasion of the Xmas festivities, many expatriates in Kuwait wish to have their relatives with them and apply for visit visas. I hope their applications will be facilitated so as not to force them to leave the country to visit their relatives.

It should be mentioned here that this comes under the economic considerations mentioned by HH the Crown Prince and Premier in his economic communiqué.

We are confident that the Ministry of Interior realizes the importance of travellers to the country from the economic point of view. So, flexibility in issuing visit visas should thus include these people.

Zahed Matar

Warsaw Pact 'to act'

MOSCOW, Dec 23, (Agencies): The Soviet government pledged today to render immediate and effective humane help to the Romanian people, and Mikhail Gorbachev said Moscow would ask its Warsaw Pact allies to come to their aid in a signal of possible military intervention.

Gorbachev said an employee at Moscow's trade mission in Bucharest had been wounded in cross-fire between pro-democracy troops and forces loyal to deposed Romanian president Nicolae Ceausescu, and the official Tass news agency said Soviet embassy workers were also wounded.

Hungarian Foreign Minister Gyula Horn told Hungarian television that representatives of the East Bloc alliance would meet tomorrow to discuss the explosive situation in Romania. He did not say where the Warsaw Pact meeting would take place.

Romanian television, controlled by pro-democracy forces in Bucharest, said Ceausescu and his wife Elena were captured a day after they fled the presidential palace in the wake of a national uprising. Fierce battles continued to rage in Bucharest and other cities between Ceausescu loyalists and his opponents.

The Soviet Union is ready to render to the Romanian people and the new leadership of the country immediate and effective humane help to liquidate the consequences of the tragic events of recent days," the

Mercenaries fighting allegation Libya, Syria deny involvement

NICOSIA, Dec 23, (Reuters): Libya and Syria denied today that their nationals were fighting in Romania alongside troops loyal to deposed dictator Nicolae Ceausescu.

Romanian television, controlled by Ceausescu opponents, reported that foreign mercenaries had entered the country to help pro-Ceausescu troops. Yugoslavia's Tanjug news agency identified them as Libyans and Syrians.

A Syrian government spokesman described the report as nonsense. "It is not even worth responding

to such allegations," he said in Damascus.

A Libyan foreign ministry official said the report was a plot to distort the image of his country.

"The great Jamahiriya (Libya) does not give attention to such fabricated news because we are used to such lies," the state-run news agency Jana quoted the unnamed official as saying.

The Tanjug report was prominently played on both Italian mid-day state television broadcasts and prompted an Italian parliamentary deputy to call for an urgent convening of the lower house to discuss the reported Libyan assistance.

government said in a statement carried by Tass.

Tass said the lives of Soviet citizens in Bucharest were "in serious danger."

"We have to support them from the point of view of medical help and maybe some other kinds of help, but to bring in forces I think that's impossible," Premier Nikolai Ryzhkov said earlier.

"We mustn't repeat mistakes," the head of the Soviet government told reporters at the Congress.

Ryzhkov was referring to the Warsaw Pact statement earlier this month that condemned the 1968 invasion of Czechoslovakia to crush the "Prague

Spring" reforms.

Soviet Foreign Ministry official Vadim Perfilov told reporters he did not know whether the government statement meant Moscow was ready to send troops to Bucharest.

Perfilov denied reports that the Soviet Ambassador to Romania Yevgeni Iyazhelnikov had promised military aid to the embattled nation's pro-democracy forces. Perfilov said he had "personally seen" the envoy today, indicating the ambassador had flown to Moscow for consultations.

The newly formed national salvation committee said over Romanian television and radio that it had asked the Soviets for help because "foreign agents" were operating in the country.

"The Soviet people are in solidarity with the Romanian people, who are defending the ideals of freedom, democracy and national dignity," the statement in Moscow said.

The Soviet government supports the efforts of the National Salvation Committee to restore calm and order in the country."

Gorbachev, opening the afternoon session of the Congress of People's Deputies, confirmed that the National Salvation Committee had asked the Soviet government for help.

Crocodiles found in sewers

Baby crocodiles have been found by a Kuwaiti construction company in one of the mainline sewers in Kuwait City, according to a local daily.

Specialists from the Agriculture Affairs and Fish Resources Authority, who were called to the site, undertook serious investigations and after more than two hours established that nine baby crocodiles were indeed present in the 70 cm sewer. The authorities have not discounted the possibility of more such creatures being present in the sewer system.

One of the crocodiles has been transported to the country's zoo in Omariya. The fate of the other eight has not been disclosed.

Visit visas at airport

Kuwait has started issuing visit visas to foreign businessmen upon their arrival at Kuwait airport. The measure comes as the first practical implementation of the government sponsored economic recommendations approved Dec 5 by the Council of Ministers.

Head of the follow-up committee formed to speed up the implementation of the recommen-

dispute over sovereignty to the Hawar Islands off Qatar's coast

See Page 9

Egypt-Syria patchup

A top-level Syrian envoy said today the president of Egypt and Syria will meet very soon to put the seal on a "comprehensive" bilateral reconciliation after a 12-year rift.

The emissary, Vice-President Abdel-Halim Khaddam, strongly indicated after talks with President Hosni Mubarak that the patchup will include resuming diplomatic relations. (AP) (See Page 13)

Battles in south Lebanon

At least 20 people were killed in battles between Shiite Muslim militiamen today for control of a string of strategic villages in south Lebanon, security and hospital sources said.

Fighting raged unabated between the Syrian-backed Amal and pro-Iranian Hezbollah (Party of God) militias after erupting at dawn in the mainly-Shiite district of Iqim Al Tufah. (Reuters) (See Page 13)

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V. P. Singh continues to remove Rajiv officials and stuff bureaucracy with own men

By Thomas Abraham Arab Times Staff

NEW DELHI, Dec 23: Vinod Pande, was appointed as the country's new Prime Minister V.P. Singh continued to wield the broom to clean the government's offices. He was considered to be close to his predecessor Rajiv Gandhi.

Pande was finance secretary during Singh's tenure as prime minister in the Rajiv government. Later, he was posted as secretary in charge of rural development.

Pande succeeds T.N. Seshan, who was yesterday appointed as one of the nine new members of the reconstituted Planning Commission. There was a feeling within

the Indian Administrative Service (IAS) that Seshan was too overbearing and that he had worked his way into Rajiv's favour.

Home Secretary J.A. Kalyan Krishnan who is senior to Pande, was earlier shifted to the Union Public Service Commission as a member, with his place being taken by Uttar Pradesh Chief Secretary Shriromani Sharma.

Another Singh favourite, Bhure Lal, was brought into the planning ministry's offices some days ago as joint secretary. Lal had also worked with Singh when he was finance minister and is linked to the hiring of the Fairfax detective agency to investigate foreign accounts of Indians. In his new job, Lal is expected to play a very important role,

something akin to the work done by Mani Shankar Aiyer for Rajiv.

Singh has yet to find an information adviser, and G. Parthasarathy, who performed the job for Rajiv, continues for the time being.

But it is unlikely that he will continue for long, and he may have to soon return to the Indian Foreign Service.

Finance Secretary Gopi Arora had to swap jobs with Bimal Jalan, an executive director of the International Monetary Fund (IMF). The new finance secretary was earlier the economic adviser to the government and is considered close to the new prime minister.

A.S. Thind, who took over as chairman of the Central

Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) only three months ago, has had to make way for T.N. Pandey.

Industry Secretary Chima Bordia has been shifted to fertilisers. She is succeeded by Commerce Secretary A.N. Varma. S.P. Shukla is the new commerce secretary.

The new members of the Planning Commission, besides Seshan, are J.D. Sethi, Rajni Kohari, L.C. Jain, Ela Bhatt, Arun Ghose, A. Vaidyanathan, Rahmatullah Ansari and Harwaroop Singh.

Six people taking a body to a crematory were killed when their ambulance collided with a bus on a western Indian highway, in Maharashtra state's Bhehpada village a news agency reported today.

INTERNATIONAL

Imelda in plea bargaining talks with US, Manila

MANILA, Philippines, Dec 23, (AP): The Philippine government's chief lawyer yesterday confirmed that former first lady Imelda Marcos had discussed a possible plea bargain with US federal prosecutors and Philippine government lawyers.

She is to stand trial March 13 on racketeering charges for allegedly helping her late husband, Ferdinand Marcos, pilage the Philippine Treasury during his 20 years in office.

"A wide range of possibilities were discussed," solicitor-general Francisco Chavez said in a telephone interview. He said one option was for Imelda to plead guilty and return between \$600 million and \$1.5 billion.

Chavez said other options under discussion include a plea of guilty to mail fraud in return for a suspended prison sentence.

Mrs Marcos would also agree to disclose information on secret bank

accounts and other assets world-wide, including holdings of Marcos associates, he said.

Chavez, who attended the talks, indicated that Imelda asked permission to return to the Philippines from the United States, where she and her husband lived since he was ousted in the 1986 uprising that propelled President Corason Aquino into office.

Marcos died in Hawaii Sept 28, but the government refused to allow his

burial in the Philippines.

"One (demand) was the possible return of the Marcoses to the Philippines," Chavez said. "I told our lawyers it is non-negotiable."

Chavez said the talks took place Dec 9-12, shortly after thousands of military mutineers sought unsuccessfully to topple President Corason Aquino. The military claims Marcos loyalists were involved in the coup attempt.

Chavez said Imelda's son, Ferdinand, Jr., sister-in-law, Fortuna Barba, daughter, Irene Areneta and son-in-law, Gregorio Araneta attended deliberations as observers.

Chavez said Aquino had been briefed on the negotiations.

"She said 'let the US courts dispense justice,'" Chavez said. "To the President what is important is justice not money."

In New York, John J. Tighe, a Mar-

cos lawyer, said a series of discussions, initiated by the Philippine and United States governments, produced no agreement.

Tighe said Imelda's defence team was still preparing for the scheduled start of her trial on charges she and her late husband siphoned more than \$100 million from the Philippine Treasury and funnelled it into the United States for the purchase of New York real estate and art.

Marcos mother to be buried

MANILA, Dec 23, (Reuters): The mother of the late Philippine dictator Ferdinand Marcos is to be buried next week — almost 20 months after she died.

The embalmed corpse of Dona Josefa Fidalin has been on public display at the family house in the northern Philippine town of Batang since she died on May 4, 1988 at the age of 95.

Congressman Mariano Nalupta, a Marcos family friend, told reporters today he had been instructed by Dona Josefa's daughter Fortuna Barba, who now lives in Hawaii, to bury the corpse by the end of the year.

The family left Dona Josefa behind when her son was forced into exile by a popular uprising in 1986. But the Marcoses refused to allow her burial until the ousted ruler was allowed to return home.

Ferdinand Marcos died in a Honolulu Hospital last September. President Corason Aquino has barred the return of his remains.

"The Marcos family in Hawaii is still hoping that Dona Josefa and her son will be laid side by side at the family mausoleum at the Batang cemetery some time in the future," Nalupta said.

Communist rebels executed last week's grenade attack on an American housing and recreation facility in Manila; the American ambassador said yesterday.

Officials had speculated the Dec 14 attack on the seafloor compound, in which no one was injured, was carried out by remnants of the military-dissident force that staged a failed coup attempt Dec 1-7.

But US Ambassador Nicholas Platt told reporters that leads gathered by US and Filipino police investigators point to communist New People's Army guerrillas operating in the capital.

Also yesterday, police said an irate son of a Filipino military officer fired at a US military base after a bar-room argument with a US Philippine security patrol. Long, who died Thursday, said housing authority chief of detective Vincent Pizzo.

Kidnap plan thwarted

14 Lanka radicals killed by pro-government vigilantes

COLOMBO, Dec 23, (Agencies): The government said yesterday it has foiled plans by Sinhalese radicals to kidnap political leaders and their families.

Foreign Minister Ranjan Wijeratne told Parliament that radicals of the ultranationalist People's Liberation Front had planned to carry out the kidnapping and make "impossible demands."

The plan came to be known when security agents interrogated arrested radicals.

Wijeratne, who is also the deputy defence minister, did not give

details but blamed "anti-national and anti-democratic forces" for instigating the kidnapping plans.

"They are engineered both from within and outside," he said, but did not specify which foreign countries were involved.

The front launched a campaign of assassinations and terror in 1987 to protest the government's peace overtures to Tamil separatists.

Meanwhile, bodies of 14 suspected Sinhalese radicals were found in the Central Hill district, one day after vigilante groups killed at least 170 suspected militants in another part of the Indian Ocean republic.

Military officials, who cannot be identified under briefing rules, said the latest bodies were found in the Kandy district Thursday night and early yesterday. The bodies bore bullet injuries and had been burned to prevent identification, they said.

The victims were believed killed by pro-government vigilante groups, also blamed for the killings of 170 radicals in the southern Hambantota district Wednesday night and Thursday.

In other areas of the country, at least four radicals were killed by police and three civilians and a soldier were slain by the militants, the officials said.

The violent Sinhalese campaign to unseat the government has claimed at least 6,000 lives.

The radicals say the Sinhalese-dominated government gave too many concessions to rebels from the Tamil minority while making overtures to end Tamil insurrection.

They also blame the government for allowing Indian soldiers to be deployed in Sri Lanka, saying the nation's sovereignty had been compromised.

Sinhalese form 75 per cent of the country's 16 million people. Tamils, who form 18 per cent, launched a war for an independent nation in 1983, complaining of discrimination by the majority community.

A senior Muslim government minister is currently engaged in establishing a broad consensus among the country's Muslims to resolve the crises faced by the community in merged Northeastern Province.

A C Shahu Hameed, minister for higher education, science and technology, early this week met several prominent Muslims who represent the country's 1.2 million Muslims another meeting expected this weekend, sources close to the minister said.

"We are trying to resolve the various differences (among the Muslim political parties in safeguarding the Muslim interests) as far as possible," said the sources. "We want to establish a framework covering the interests, identity and security of the Muslim people living in the north and east (of Sri Lanka)."

Muslim political sources in Colombo said Minister Hameed's moves should be welcomed and encouraged since differences among the parties has only, as they put it, "aggravated the plight of the Muslims."

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Wary of returning to Paris Denard to quit SA

JOHANNESBURG, Dec 23, (AP): Notorious French mercenary Bob Denard said yesterday he is negotiating so he soon can leave South Africa, the country that took him in after he was forced to yield control of the Comoros islands.

Denard has been in Johannesburg since Dec 15, the day French troops landed in the Comoros and peacefully loosened the hold of mercenaries who assumed power following the Nov 26 assassination of President Ahmed Abdallah Abderrahman.

Denard is wary of returning to France, where he faces criminal charges arising from a 1977 coup attempt he led in the West African nation of Benin.

Many Comorans blame Denard and his soldiers of fortune for the killing of the leader of the three-island Indian Ocean nation, a former French colony.

At his first news conference in Johannesburg, Denard, 60, denied South African officials' statements that arrangements have been completed for him to leave for an undisclosed foreign country.

To all of you



Celebrate Your Christmas & New Year with Mughal Mahal Carry Aways

Mughal Mahal
Special Restaurant for Dine in & Carry Away
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Pakistan finishes exercise

ISLAMABAD, Dec 23, (AP): Forces headed back to barracks today after the biggest war games in Pakistani history.

The mock battles involving some 200,000 troops on the increasingly muddy plains of central Punjab bore a resemblance to the three wars Pakistan has fought with India since the two became separate countries in 1947.

Defence officials said the manoeuvres, code-named Zarbe Momin and Highmark '89, tested new weapons and tactics combining ground and air units to repulse an attack by a militarily superior neighbour.

Zarbe Momin translates from Urdu as "the blow of the perfect Muslim."

Pakistani generals will now analyse the success of a new strategy they call "riposte," where army and air force don't just defend the border, but mount a swift counterstrike into enemy territory to break the thrust of its attack.

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Solace for injured kids

One day before Christmas Eve Father Christmas visited American University Hospital in west Beirut and distributed gifts to children, who are suffering

from multiple injuries after six months of bloodshed that engulfed Lebanon. (Reuters wirephoto)

Bhopal victims can sue the govt

NEW DELHI, India, Dec 23, (AP): The Supreme Court yesterday upheld the government's right to represent all victims of the 1984 Bhopal gas disaster.

The court also left Union Carbide Corp. open to criminal charges by victims.

Chief Justice Sabyasachi Mukharji said victims could file suits against the government charging they were not given adequate notice of a much-criticised settlement reached Feb 15 with Union Carbide Corp.

The Danbury, Connecticut-based multinational, operated the pesticide plant in the central Indian city of Bhopal where a toxic gas leak in December 1984 killed at least 3,598 people and injured another 20,000.

Under the February settlement, Union Carbide agreed to pay \$470 million to victims. Many victims, newspapers and politicians said the agreement was inadequate and reached too hastily.

The settlement also absolved Union Carbide of any civil or criminal liability for the gas leak.

But Mukharji said the law covered only civil liability, and that Union Carbide can be sued on criminal charges.

Lawyers said the issue was not clear.

One lawyer argued the judgment restricts petitioners to appealing against the government.

"Carbide goes out of the picture and the claimants will only have a case against the government of India," said Kailash Vasdev, who represented eight victims in the case. "It's very confusing," he added.

A law empowering the government to represent the victims was challenged by several petitioners, including Charan Lal Sahu, a 52-year-old attorney, and the Bhopal Women Gas Victims Organisation.

Arguments in the case ended May 3.

Gorby envoy meets Singh

NEW DELHI, Dec 23, (AP): Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's special envoy, Deputy Foreign Minister Yuli Vorontsov, met Indian leaders yesterday and reaffirmed Moscow's friendly ties with New Delhi.

It was the first high-level contact between the Soviet Union and the new Indian government led by Prime Minister V.P. Singh.

Singh assumed office on Dec 2 after last month's national elections in which former prime minister Rajiv Gandhi's Congress Party failed to gain majority.

Vorontsov met Singh and handed over a letter from Gorbachev. United News of India said the two countries decided to continue their "traditional level of friendship."

Murder toll may shatter record New York killings

NEW YORK, Dec 23, (AP): The city's murder toll for 1989 may shatter last year's record as New York nears the close of its bloodiest decade.

Police statistics indicated that about 30 per cent of this year's murders could be directly attributed to drugs.

Those added to the death toll Thursday and Friday include a 13-month-old girl beaten by her mother's boyfriend, a tenant patrol leader who encountered a gunfight and a homeless man knifed in the subway in a fight over a turkey leg.

According to the most recent figures available, as of Nov 24, 1,773 people were murdered this year in New York City — 28 more than on the same date a year earlier.

Last year, the city had a record 1,896 homicides. This year is expected to push the murder total for the decade close to 17,000, making the 1980s the deadliest 40 years in the city's history.

Levan Turney, 20, was charged with murder, rape, sodomy, assault, sexual abuse and endangering the welfare of a child in the beating of the little girl. Sadayam Long, who died Thursday, said housing authority chief of detective Vincent Pizzo.

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Record cold persists in States

WASHINGTON, Dec 23, (AP): The deep freeze snapped temperature records yesterday in more than 125 cities from the Rockies to the East Coast, making it one of the worst cold spells on record, the national weather service said.

The temperature dipped to minus 47 (minus 44 Celsius) in the southeastern Montana town of Broadus, the coldest spot yesterday in the continental states.

The bitter cold caused concern for citrus growers, farmers and those who care for the homeless, the poor and the elderly. Utilities reported record usage as customers tried to keep warm.

In New York City, where the Arctic chill sent 9,200 people to shelters Thursday night, demonstrators erected four tombstones outside city hall to mark the deaths of four homeless people who died of exposure while sleeping in the city subway system last weekend.

Nation-wide, nearly 60 deaths have been blamed on the week-long cold spell. The cold was blamed yesterday for the death of a 35-year-old Oklahoma City salesman who died while walking a half-mile home after his car was apparently run out of gas.

"If it gets cold enough long enough, we've got a disaster," said William Moon, sales manager for Zellwinn Farms in Jacksonville, Florida, which has everything from carrots and lettuce to parsley and radishes in the ground in northwest Orange County.

The strain on utilities caused scattered power outages and prompted Potomac Electric Power in Washington, D.C., to temporarily cut its voltage by 5 per cent yesterday to prevent blackouts.

Potomac electric power spokesman Tom Welle said oil-fired generators were using fuel quicker than the pipeline supplying the plant could deliver it.

Among the cities to set cold records were: Beckley, West Virginia, minus 13 (minus 25 Celsius); Bismarck, North Dakota, minus 32 (minus 36); Calico, California, minus 35 (minus 39); Cedar Rapids, Iowa, minus 31 (minus 28); Del Rio, Texas, 17 (8); Duluth, Minnesota, minus 22 (minus 30); Paducah, Kentucky, minus 10 (minus 23); Kansas City, Missouri, minus 19 (minus 28); Omaha, Nebraska, minus 25 (minus 32).

"The number of record lows today was as great as that of Christmas day in 1983, and establishes this cold wave, along with those of December 1983 and February 1989 as one of the most severe of all time for the central and eastern US," said Hugh Crowther of the national weather service.



Fire and ice!

Ice-encrusted fire-fighter Joe Wilson takes a breather after battling a house fire Dec 22 in Winthrop, Massachusetts. The temperature was a frigid 5 degrees Fahrenheit. (Reuter wirephoto)

Millionaires overnight Xmas lottery

MADRID, Spain, Dec 23, (AP): The world's richest lottery turned thousands of Spaniards into pacha millionaires yesterday as orphan boys and girls sang out winning numbers in Gregorian chant, for an expectant nation tuned into television and radio broadcasts.

Orphans of St. Ildefonso Orphanage near Madrid sang out the number — 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, the coveted prize El Gordo, the fat one, spreading joy across the southeastern town of Puerta, outside Valencia.

Hundreds of people swamped the streets of Puerta, where the winning series was sold, including some who popped open champagne bottles, Spanish national radio said.

El Gordo, also called the Christmas lottery, paid out 250 million pesetas (\$2.2 million) to each of 80 tickets bearing the same winning number, or a total of 20 billion pesetas (\$176 million) in prize money.

Since each of the 80 tickets were spread among family, friends and fellow workers, the tax-free cash prizes were widely shared.

National lottery commission officials said vendors sold a record 125.4 billion pesetas (\$1.13 billion) worth of lottery tickets this year, 5.4 billion pesetas more than last year.

Seventy per cent of revenues go to the tax-free prize money. The rest goes to the Spanish treasury.

People across the country were showered with a total of 92.4 billion pesetas (\$822 million) in prize money.

The lottery gave out a total of 10,419 prizes, most paying the winners five times the face value of their tickets.

Second prize went to number 43,243, to a series bought by employees of the liquor 43 factory in southeastern Cartagena City.

UN sets world summit for kids

UNITED NATIONS, Dec 23, (AP): The first "world summit for children" will be held in September to encourage government to save up to 100 million children from death by disease and malnutrition in the 1990s, diplomats said yesterday.

Canada, Egypt, Mali, Mexico, Pakistan and Sweden are co-sponsoring the event, tentatively set for Sept 26-27 at UN headquarters in New York. They are inviting world leaders to attend.

Health
The "world summit for children" is expected to push governments to redirect military and indebtedness spending to health and nutrition.

Third World nations pay \$178 billion to wealthy nations each year in debt service, three times more than the value of the aid they receive. Developing countries also collectively spend \$ 145 billion annually on the military.

More than 100 governments have endorsed the summit, according to the UN children's fund.

The global gathering will take place during the next general assembly, when presidents, kings, prime ministers and foreign ministers join their diplomatic corps in New York.

Expected
James P. Grant, the executive director of Unicef, has said up to 60 heads of state or government are expected to attend the meeting, including US President George Bush and Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev.

At a meeting of Unicef's executive board yesterday, diplomats from 41 member-states of the organization agreed by consensus to authorize the gathering.

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PEOPLE AND PLACES

Toshiba develops world's first

Retina prototype

TOKYO, Dec 23, (AP): Toshiba Corp said yesterday it has created the world's first prototype of an artificial retina, paving the way for developments of highly sophisticated optical products and computers.

Toshiba's retina-like membrane, developed, not for commercial sales but as a result of the company's basic research, is capable of transforming optical signals into electric pulse signals in a way the human retina's molecular structure changes when exposed to light, said a Toshiba official.

This could signal future advances in the development of aids for those with poor eyesight.

"If such signals are somehow transmitted to a human brain through the nervous system, it can be applicable to patients with weak eyesight. But that will take at least a few decades," he said.

Application to computer systems and lenses for video cameras will come earlier, the officials said.

LONDON: Capt Mark Phillips, estranged husband of Princess Anne, flew Friday to Washington to spend Christmas apart from his family.

Phillips, travelling alone, made no comment at London's Heathrow airport.

Buckingham Palace, announced in August that 39-year-old Anne, Queen Elizabeth II's only daughter, and Phillips, 40, would separate after 15 years of marriage. The announcement said there were no plans for divorce.

The couple's children, Peter, 12, and Zara, 8, are expected to join their mother at the Royal Family Christmas celebrations at Sandringham, the queen's residence 100 miles (160 kms) north London. (AP)

SEOUL: The love story of two ping pong stars from China and South Korea, whose romance once seemed doomed by politics, ended happily on Friday when the couple was married in a traditional Korean ceremony.

China's Jiao Zhimin, 25, married her fiancé, South Korea's Ahn Jae-Hyung, 24, at a ceremony at Seoul Olympic Park.

Nearly 1,000 people attended, including Jiao's parents and sister and South Korean Political Affairs Minister Park Chul-ja, the man credited with securing Beijing's approval for the marriage.

Relations between South Korea and China, an ally of the south's long-time foe North Korea, were hostile until 1988 when Seoul started wooing communist nations. (AP)

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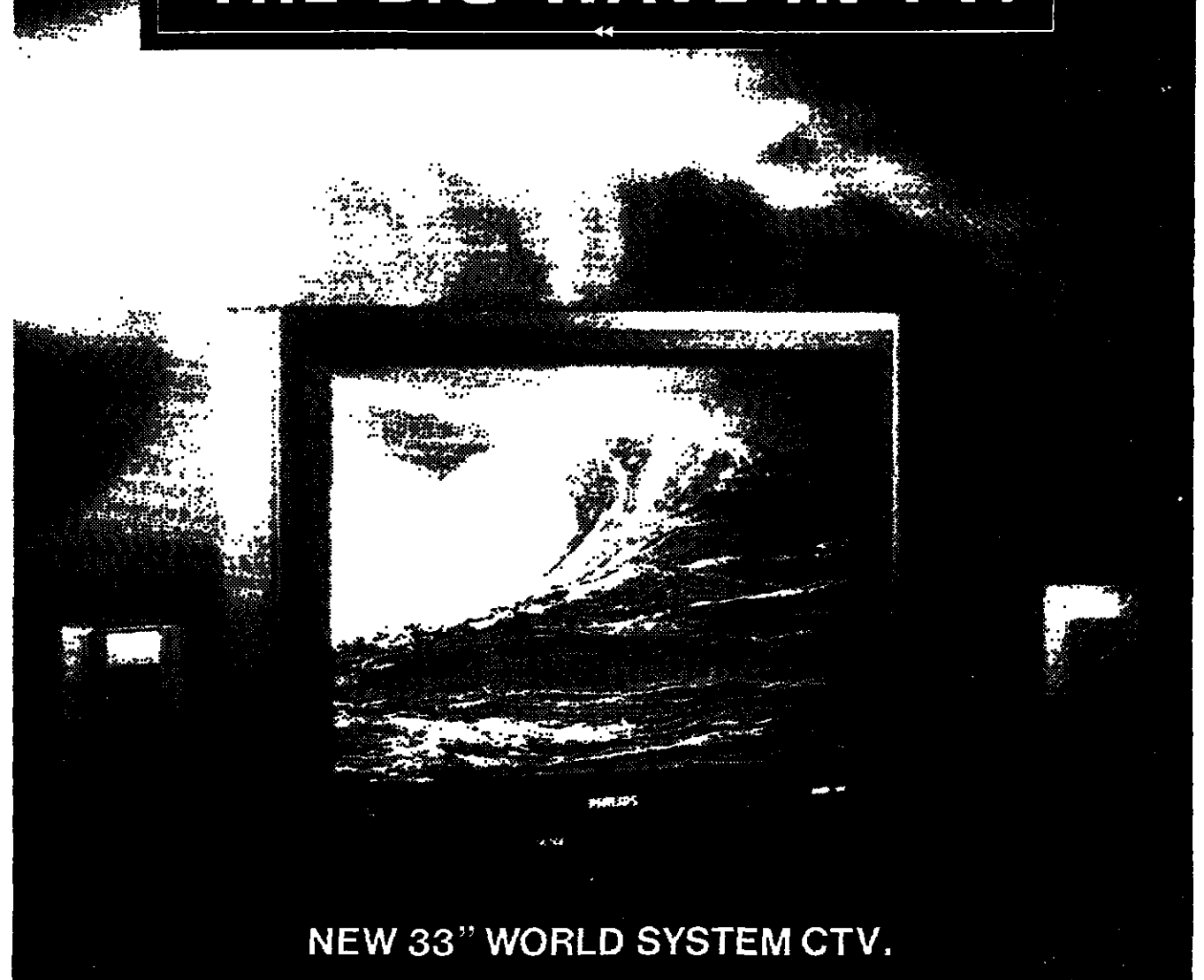
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Bomb injures circuit judge

Fifth blast in US in a week

HAGERSTOWN, MD., Dec 23, (AP): A pipe bomb delivered to a county judge's apartment exploded and injured him yesterday, but appeared to be unrelated to four other bomb attacks in four states in one week.

Washington county circuit judge John Corderman, 47, was in stable condition after undergoing surgery to remove shrapnel in his abdomen and right hand, said Washington county hospital spokeswoman Diana Donegan.

Corderman also lost the tip of his right middle finger and suffered severe damage to both eardrums, but he never lost consciousness and his life was in no immediate danger, hospital officials said.

A neighbour said the bomb exploded in Corderman's apartment about 10 minutes after a delivery man left a package in the building. The judge apparently was alone at the time, police said.

Corderman made his way outside his apartment, used a fire alarm to call for help and went back inside, where he collapsed, Jackson said.

As good as a coin toss

Lie detector use declines

BOSTON, Dec 23, (AP): A prosecutor calls it "witchcraft" and a psychologist says it's as reliable as a coin toss.

After years of debate, court rulings and federal legislation, use of the polygraph has dropped sharply, despite supporters who insist the test is a good indicator of whether someone is telling a lie.

"They have been useless and give misleading information," said Leonard Saxe, a visiting professor of psychology at Brandeis University and a leading opponent of polygraph testing. "They suggest whether you're guilty or innocent. You might as well flip a coin."

Last week, the state Supreme Court banned the detector tests from being introduced as evidence in criminal trials. Massachusetts had been one of the last remaining states that gave defendants the right to use polygraphs to support their alibis.

The court, noting polygraph studies have shown success rates varying from 95 per cent to just above 50 per cent, said: "There remains no consensus among experts as to the accuracy of polygraph testing to detect

deceit." The court was not alone in deciding against polygraphs, which attempt to determine someone's honesty by their physiological response to certain questions.

Last year, Congress prohibited most private sector employers from using lie detectors to screen job applicants or randomly test workers.

Exempted from the rules were federal, state and local governments, firms that do sensitive work for agencies like the CIA and FBI, companies that provide security services and those that make or distribute controlled substances.

"I think it's appropriate to seek if someone is lying, and the most appropriate way is to seek evidence," said Judy Crockett, who fought on behalf of the federal law for the American Civil Liberties Union. "Polygraphs tend to be an attempt to short-cut investigations."

The federal law, which took effect a year ago, has taken a big bite out of the polygraph business.

Mugabe urges party congress to stay the course

Zimbabwe to stay Marxist

HARARE, Dec 23, (AP): Zimbabwe's ruling party yesterday pledged to create a one-party socialist state, ignoring calls by democracy proponents to heed the events in eastern Europe.

The decision, on the last day of a four-day Zimbabwe African National Union (patriotic front) Congress, was part of the constitution approved by 4,200 delegates.

It restated President Robert Mugabe's longstanding goal of transforming one of Africa's few Western-style democracies into a single-party nation governed by Marxist-Leninist principles.

The constitution says the party's aim is to establish and sustain a socialist society guided by Marxist-Leninist principles but firmly

based on our historical, cultural and social experience and to create conditions for economic independence, increased productivity and equitable distribution of the wealth of the nation.

It also pledges the party to "establish a one-party state in Zimbabwe."

Mugabe, who led the former white-ruled British colony of Rhodesia to independence as black-ruled Zimbabwe on April 18, 1980, argued strenuously in the closed sessions for delegates to reject calls by some to abandon the goal in favour of multi-party democracy and a free-enterprise economy.

But unlike eastern European countries formerly under hard-line communist rule, Mugabe advocated individual ownership,

personal enterprise and profit.

Debate behind closed doors was "heated but healthy," said official party spokesman Nathan Shamuyarira, also the minister of foreign affairs.

The decision dismayed some analysts who contend Zimbabwe should recognise that its ideological role models such as Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, East Germany and even Romania were ousting hard-line communist leaders and seeking political and economic reforms.

Pro-democracy groups had hoped Zimbabwe would follow some other African states that abandoned radical leftist policies in line with events in eastern Europe.

Inquiries ordered against senators

WASHINGTON, Dec 23, (UPI): The US Senate ethics committee ordered preliminary inquiries into allegations of misconduct against six senators, one step short of a full-scale investigation, and those involved said the inquiry would clear them.

In a brief statement, the committee said it ordered the inquiries on the recommendation of a special outside counsel who had been hired earlier to look at the allegations.

The preliminary inquiries will be reviewed by the committee, which then will decide whether to absolve the senators or order a full-scale investigation.

One investigation deals with allegations that five senators sought to apply pressure on the federal home loan bank board during its investigation of the Lincoln Savings and Loan Association, whose president contributed \$1.4 million to their causes and campaigns.

Those five senators, all of whom have denied wrongdoing, are senators Alan Cranston, Democrat of California, Dennis Deconcini, Democrat of Arizona, John McCain, Republican of Arizona, John Glenn, Democrat of Ohio, and Donald Riegle, Democrat of Michigan.

A separate investigation involves allegations that senator Alfonse D'Amato, Republican of New York, improperly lobbied the US department of housing and urban development on behalf of developers who were contributors to his political campaigns. D'Amato also has denied any wrongdoing.

The committee said it retained outside counsel, one for the Lincoln five and one for D'Amato, "to assist in obtaining and analyzing additional information," beyond the allegations which were filed against the six senators.

A spokesman for McCain expressed no surprise at the action, saying "we kind of thought that's what they were about already... other than a technical change in their description of it that is essentially what they were up to already. We are hopeful they can go about it as quickly as possible, and we are eager for their decision."

Other senators were not immediately available.

"After discussing this matter with special outside counsel, the committee believes that fairness to all concerned requires a thorough and complete review of all relevant facts and circumstances... therefore the committee, upon recommendation of special outside counsel, has voted to conduct preliminary inquiries regarding these matters," the committee said.

"The committee wants to emphasize that the decision to proceed by preliminary inquiry in each of these matters is being taken for procedural reasons only," the statement said.

The committee said, "it is the necessary procedural vehicle within which to conduct the examinations. The committee wishes to stress that it has taken no position as to the merits of the allegations or the weight of the evidence."

The committee is already investigating Senator David Durenberger, Republican of Minnesota, on allegations he circumvented limits on honoraria through a book-publishing arrangement and soliciting payment for appearances in the Boston area where he was going on personal matters.



Heart-breaking task

Relatives and friends Saturday began the heart-breaking task of identifying the bodies of those killed in Australia's worst ever road crash Friday.

Two more deaths in hospital overnight brought the toll to 36 Saturday, with another 39 in hospital, many of them still in serious condition.

Five overseas visitors are known to be among the survivors. Police spokeswoman Nicola Gavel, said one from the United States, one from New Zealand and three from England, but she would not release names. She said it was not known if any visitors were among the dead.

"We are beginning identification procedures today at the Sydney morgue where all of the bodies have been brought," she said Saturday.

The New South Wales state coroner, Kevin Waller, who has opened an official inquiry into the crash on the Pacific Highway, near Kempsey, 300 miles (482km) north of Sydney, said preliminary inquiries indicated that one bus appeared to have drifted across to the wrong side of the road.

He said the bus was carrying 22 people, including 12 children. The accident occurred at 11.30pm on Friday.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Police find explosives: Police said Friday that a cache of explosives and weapons were found in Wales, possibly hidden by the IRA, and arrested two men.

Commander George Churchill-Coleman, head of Scotland Yard's anti-terrorist branch, said the cache may have been hidden in preparation for actions on the British mainland by the outlawed Irish Republican Army, which has been fighting to end British rule in Northern Ireland.

It is all speculation, but this could have been used for a Christmas bombing campaign," the commander said. (AP)

2 die in border skirmish: A black nationalist guerrilla and a policeman were killed in a skirmish near South Africa's border with Swaziland, police said on Saturday.

Police found several guerrillas on Friday close to border gate, a frontier post near Komatiport in eastern Transvaal Province, a police spokesman said. The suspects opened fire when police tried to make an arrest. Police killed one guerrilla and a black officer was shot dead. (Reuters)

France to refurbish instead: The government said Friday it would modernise its old Crusader fighters rather than buy US F-18s for use on aircraft carriers until the new French-built Rafale fighter is ready in 1992.

Defence Minister Jean-Pierre Chevenement said in a statement the decision was necessary because "the success of the Rafale programme is a national challenge which must be met."

The cost of developing and building Rafales for the French navy and air force is estimated at about 35 billion francs (about \$6 billion). (AP)

Miners escape from fire: All but five of some 300 miners trapped underground when a fire broke out in a coal mine Friday managed to escape unharmed, a spokeswoman for the state mining company Huososa said in Oviedo, Spain.

Clara Rodriguez said the fire that broke out in the seventh level of the Mosquera mine was under control. Five miners were missing, she said. They were not employees of Huososa but contract workers for another company, the spokeswoman added. (AP)

Pope pledges church support: Pope John Paul II on Friday hailed the spirit of democracy sweeping Europe and pledged the support of the Roman Catholic Church in reconstructing a continent without frontiers.

In his annual Christmas message to cardinals about the state of the world, the Polish-born Pope pointed specifically to Czechoslovakia and the Soviet countries, whose previous, hard-line governments had restricted the church severely. Speaking shortly before the last of the Soviet bloc's

hard-line leaders, Nicolae Ceausescu, was ousted from power in Romania, the Pope expressed "horror for the violence used against defenceless citizens and the loss of human life" in attempts to quell demonstrations in Romania over the past week. (AP)

Italy passes decree: The Italian cabinet on Friday passed a decree making it harder for immigrants to enter the country, particularly those from the Third World and Eastern Europe.

The decree, which must be approved by parliament within 60 days, aims to set yearly limits on visas granted to citizens of various countries.

Officials said the decree did not mean Italy was closing its doors to immigrants but would seek to regulate them according to availability of employment, education, housing, and health care. (Reuters)

Volcano study: A decade-long study of a Central American volcano has turned up the best evidence yet that small shifts in gravity may predict volcanic eruptions, scientists reported Wednesday. British researchers said they found small increases in gravity at Pos Volcano in Costa Rica preceded bursts of steaming water in June 1987 and a mile-high ash cloud eruption in April 1989.

The monitoring effort detected no significant changes in gravity strength near the volcanic crater between 1979 and 1983. Small increases were detected starting in 1985, with the biggest shifts occurring after March 1987. (UPI)

Hawke father dies: Clem Hawke, father of Australian Prime Minister Bob Hawke, died of a stroke Saturday at age 92, officials said.

Clem Hawke died at a nursing home in Adelaide, southern Australia, said a spokesman for the prime minister's office.

The official said Hawke had been ill for some time. The prime minister, who two weeks ago shed tears on national television while talking about his ailing father, was unavailable for comment. (AP)

Rebels announce Xmas truce: Rebels declared a unilateral 11-day Christmas truce Friday, soon after destroying a town hall and a telecommunications office and launching attacks against economic targets in several parts of El Salvador.

The rebel Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front, or FMLN, said in a statement the truce would go into effect at midnight Friday and continue through Jan 2.

The Salvadoran armed forces had pledged to have all their units on duty during the holidays to guard against rebel attacks and had no immediate reaction to the FMLN truce. (UPI)

Thatcher pledges: British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher has underlined her pledge to exclude the sovereignty of the Falkland Islands from negotiations with Argentina.

Pusher, wanted in US, nabbed

BOGOTA, Dec 23, (UPI): Authorities said yesterday a suspected Colombian cocaine trafficker wanted in the United States has been arrested and was being held in a Bogota prison while extradition proceedings were underway.

Police also said four of the six bodies found dumped outside Bogota this week were identified as members of a hit squad run by slain drug chief Jose Rodriguez Gacha.

The death last Friday of Rodriguez Gacha, considered the military chief of the Medellin Cartel, has cooled off the cocaine Mafia's bombing campaign of the past four months, replacing it instead with a series of vendettas and battles in the power vacuum.

On Monday, five alleged thugs of Rodriguez Gacha were knifed to death in Bogota's Modelo Prison in a fight between rival bands of emerald smugglers.

News reports, meanwhile, said the kingpin's intelligence chief, Jorge Noel Barreto, who allegedly ran assassination campaigns against leftist politicians for Rodriguez Gacha, was freed on Monday by a Bogota judge.

The reasons for the release of Barreto, who was captured Oct 25 in the north of Bogota, are not yet known.

Reorganize

El Tiempo newspaper, citing undercover agents, said Barreto was in jungles north of the capital trying to reorganize Rodriguez Gacha's private army, in disarray after the drug lord's death.

Authorities said secret police arrested Rafael Julio Fernandez, a Colombian accused of smuggling cocaine into the United States, last Monday in Barranquilla, a port city 440 miles (700 km) north of the capital.

Fernandez, who was captured as he drove in his car on the Caribbean Coast, had jumped his \$600,000 bail from a Miami jail and had come to Colombia, police said.

Authorities were holding Fernandez in a Bogota jail while the Justice Ministry filed papers for his extradition to the United States.

Police did not announce in which state Fernandez was wanted, but he does not figure in the US Justice Department's list of the 12 most wanted Colombian drug traffickers.

Ten Colombians have been extradited to the United States since President Virgilio Barco reinstated an extradition treaty in August in the government's offensive against rampaging drug cartels.

The family of Rodriguez Gacha said yesterday it hoped his death would bring peace to Colombia.

A communique issued by Rodriguez Gacha's family expressed hopes that "battles, political ideals, and convictions had been buried with him." The communique was signed by two brothers of the trafficker, who said they spoke for the entire family.

"We don't harbour any dark desire for vengeance or retaliation," said the message sent to newspapers, radio and television stations.



De Mello ponders

Brazilian president-elect Fernando Collor de Mello, 40, ponders a question during his first press conference on Dec 22 after winning the election. Collor has vowed to dismantle the National Intelligence Service (SNI), the state security apparatus, as one of his first acts upon taking presidency next March. (Reuters wirephoto)



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NY mural defaced

Creators outraged

NEW YORK, Dec 23, (AP): Vandals hurled bottles of paint at a six-storey-tall mural depicting Karl Marx, Fidel Castro, Lenin and others, outraging its creators and prompting the city's mayor-elect to pledge help in restoring it.

The attack, which occurred between 9 pm Wednesday and 7 am Thursday, left large sections of the work splattered with white paint, said Meryl Lynn Farber, New York Co-ordinator of the Pathfinder Mural.

She said the cans, with swastikas and the "SS" insignia on them, apparently were thrown at an angle to do the most damage possible across a wide section of the lower portion of the wall, which is 70-feet (21 metres) high and 85 feet (26 metres) wide on the Pathfinder building.

It has taken a four-month legal battle to reduce the fine to a more manageable penalty of \$1,050, but his case highlights some of the flaws in Finland's system of punishment based on income.

The principle of paying fines based on a person's earnings has been around for as long as people can remember in this socialist-leaning nation, but it was applied to minor speeding offences only 12 years ago.

Finnish businessman wins four-month legal battle to reduce fine for over-speeding

HELSINKI, Dec 23, (AP): Rainer Rooth, a 41-year-old businessman, was taken aback when he got a speeding fine of \$11,400.

It has taken a four-month legal battle to reduce the fine to a more manageable penalty of \$1,050, but his case highlights some of the flaws in Finland's system of punishment based on income.

The principle of paying fines based on a person's earnings has been around for as long as people can remember in this socialist-leaning nation, but it was applied to minor speeding offences only 12 years ago.

Finnish say such fines are the fairest way to punish offenders, rich and poor alike. Even Rooth who may have received the highest fine on record, doesn't argue with it.

"I think the system is just, but there has to be some kind of limit," said Rooth, who built a wild west town for tourists in central Finland which opened last summer.

In August, Rooth was caught driving 120 kms (75 miles) per hour in an 80-kph (50-mph) zone. Penalties for exceeding the speed limit by more than 15 kph (10 mph) are based on what the offender says is his

annual income. The minimum is 20 marks (\$5). Rooth was driving his BMW car when caught in the speed trap. He told the incredulous policemen he was getting no income from his business, which was heavily in debt.

The case went to the tax authorities, who ruled that Rooth's earnings in 1987 were 1.2 million marks (roughly \$300,000) and set the fine at 46,600 marks, or \$11,400. Rooth protested, and the case was twice adjourned.

"I didn't earn that kind of money when the

offence occurred, and besides in 1987 I had to sell some property in order to invest more in my company which was experiencing financial difficulties," Rooth said in an interview.

The court reduced the fine to \$1,050 on Wednesday, but Rooth estimated that with legal costs he paid at least \$3,000.

"I tell you, the taxman was after me, it's as simple as that," The new fine is still not right, but I can live with it. Another appeal would probably cost just as much," he said.

CP 11/150

Heart of Berlin pounding again

Thousands surge through Brandenburg Gate

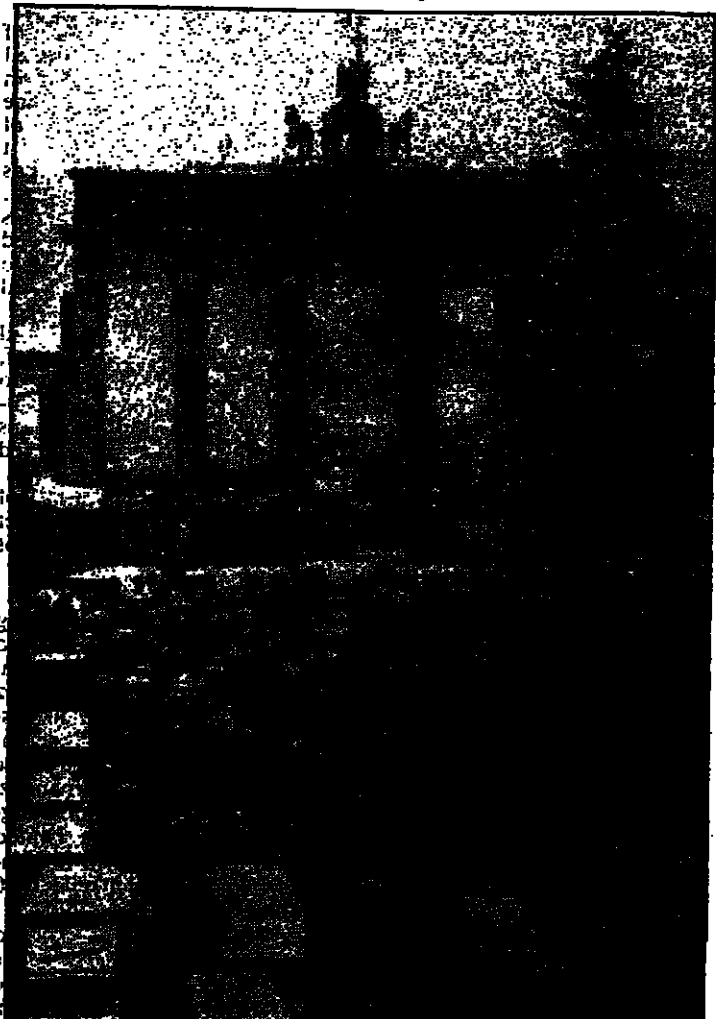
WEST BERLIN, Dec 23, (AP): Thousands of jubilant Berliners came together at the spot where their city's division seemed most severe and celebrated into the early morning today after the Berlin Wall was opened at the Brandenburg Gate.

Although Vis-treast Germany technically does not take effect until tomorrow, police earlier were unable to control documents in the chaos and waved through all visitors.

West German television last night carried live updates of the late-night festivities, showing scenes of merry-makers dancing atop the Berlin Wall, popping champagne corks and waving sparklers.

Souvenir hunters chipped away pieces of the barrier, hours after a ceremony yesterday formally opening two border crossings in the wall just north and south of the towering gate.

West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl and East German Premier Hans Modrow were both present for the occasion. It was their second meeting within a week.



Thousands of E. Germans and W. Germans gather around the Brandenburg Gate. (Reuter wirephoto)

Security collapsed as soon as the two crossings were opened. Thousands of people pushed down metal barriers erected to control the crowd and swept through the vast Paris Square, snaking through the gate and climbing the wall.

West Berlin police estimated more than 30,000 people had gathered on the western side for the ceremony. The crowd on the eastern side appeared to be much larger, but there were no official estimates.

Although more than 20 border crossings have been cut through the wall since East Germany opened its borders to the west on Nov 9, the opening of the Brandenburg Gate was an emotional high point for a people divided since the end of World War II.

When the Berlin Wall was built in 1961, the Brandenburg Gate, Berlin's most famous landmark that straddled a main thoroughfare, remained in the East.

It was also inaccessible to East Berliners until yesterday, since it was part of the off-limits East German border zone.

The crowd that turned out to celebrate carried Berlin, West German and East German flags. Several people clambered up onto the thick section of the wall remaining directly in front of the gate, with a large sign that said in English: "Come together."

Kohl and Modrow met on the border line, shook hands and then walked together to a platform to address the crowd.

"This is the happiest day in my life, because I feel that here in Berlin I am standing in the middle of Germany," said Kohl.

Reminding of the significance of the gate in German history, Modrow said its new function should be "to serve the peace."

Many people had tears in their eyes as they mingled.

The ceremony as broadcast live on both countries' national television. Said a commentator for West Germany's ZDF network: "This is where the heart of Berlin pounds."

European Economic Community's ministers yesterday paved the way for the European Commission to start negotiations with East Germany on a trade and economic co-operation agreement, an EEC official said.

Foreign Ministers Hans-Dietrich Genscher of West Germany and Jiri Dienstbier of Czechoslovakia today cut frontier fencing dividing their nations in a gesture symbolising European liberation.



E. German citizens crash through barricades at the square in front of the Brandenburg Gate. (Reuter wirephoto)

Gorbachev warns separatists of bloodshed and death in split

MOSCOW, Dec 23, (Reuter): Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev today warned regional separatists who want their republics to leave the Soviet Union that secession would sow "discord, bloodshed and death."

His harsh statement was made in a parliamentary debate over a proposed constitutional committee, during which

Baltic deputies denounced as illegal the Soviet Union's 1940 incorporation of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia.

"Nowadays to exercise self-determination through secession is to upset the union, to pit peoples against one another and to sow discord, bloodshed and death," Gorbachev said.

The Soviet leader did not elaborate, but

his statement that secession would lead to violence was a clear warning to nationalists in republics around the Soviet periphery that their actions could prompt civil war.

His statements to the Congress of People's deputies appeared to be aimed largely at the Baltic republics of Lithuania, Estonia and Latvia, which have become

increasingly militant in their push for more autonomy from the Kremlin.

Earlier this week the Lithuanian Communist Party defied Gorbachev and voted to declare itself independent from the central Soviet Party.

Gorbachev has announced the Communist Party central committee will hold a plenum on the issue in the next few days.

Mitterrand for one Germany Unity backed

EAST BERLIN, Dec 23, (AP): President Francois Mitterrand of France called for closer links between East Germany and Europe yesterday, and said that France would not object to a peaceful reunification of the German people based on a democratic vote.

Mitterrand told a news conference that he was impressed by the warm welcome he received during the two-day visit.

"I sense an opening toward Europe on the part of the East Germany," he said.

Mitterrand was the first head of state of one of the three Western World War II allies to East Germany. He left East Berlin for

Paris after the news conference.

The French president's visit came as the process of reunification accelerated, with meeting yesterday afternoon between West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl and East German Premier Hans Modrow at the opening of the Brandenburg Gate, the symbol of German unity.

Mitterrand reaffirmed that the German people had a right to decide its future democratically, but warned against any moves that would lead to the destabilisation of Europe.

"It (unity) is a delicate subject. The Germans must have a clear conscience. You can't play with borders," Mitterrand said.

مطبات مكاميس MUKAMIS STORES

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EDITORIALS

ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

IT IS when the holiday is over that we begin to enjoy it —
A.G. Gardiner, English journalist (1865-1946).

OPINION

Common market
— need of the day

IF the GCC markets are turned into a common market — within the exact context of the word, it will certainly have a great and vital importance on the international arena — because of its huge financial resources and vast consuming market. Frankly speaking, the economic resolutions of the GCC states need to be speeded up.

What we need here in the Gulf is the speeding up of interlinking the interest of the people. The process of linking the interests of the GCC people, however, must be faster in order not to face the consequences.

Such a measure may temporarily harm one state or a group of people in any of the six member states, but such damage will be temporary and will soon be converted into increasing the profitability of all sections.

Additionally, the economic interlinkage among the GCC states will be in favour of the political regimes also — for stability and security are only achieved under economic prosperity, just distribution of resources and through utilisation of the available regional opportunities for the benefit of the common man.

All these can be achieved only through linking the interests of the people so as to create the feeling that the citizens of this region are one and their economic interest is also one.

One need only to look at East Europe — these countries were economically managed in a bad way. The governments of East Europe were unwise in utilising their economic resources, at a time the process of forming alliances and economically linking peoples similar in their social and geographic structures, had been increasing.

Suffice it to say, that here in the Gulf, we have delayed some aspects of the economic linkage and we will certainly feel the effect of this delay in the future.

We will feel the effect when we will find ourselves unable to convince other economic groups of our strength, for in some aspects we still move alone and not as a group.

It should be remembered that acceleration of linking our economic interests will lead to the creation of the common economic market we need.

Ahmed Al Jarallah

Long Panama
fight feared

WASHINGTON, (Agencies): Military officials fear actions by Panamanian troops loyal to Gen. Manuel Antonio Noriega could force US troops to transform their "mop-up" operation into a long-term guerrilla engagement.

They fear that unless Noriega's supporters are captured and disarmed, they could continue to threaten Panamanian citizens and the lives of the 35,000 Americans living in the country, or at the very least offer a serious disruption to any return to normalcy at the Canal and elsewhere, officials said Thursday.

A highly placed officer, who spoke on condition he not be identified by name, was asked how long he believed the strike force of thousands of US troops would remain in the country.

"I don't think anybody here knows," he said. "Remembering that the forces were going house-to-house on Thursday in their efforts to clean out the remaining Noriega loyalists in Panama City — and that they could be forced to search the countryside in search of the deposed general — the official said, "it's not just a mop-up operation anymore."

Asked if US military units might be facing a protracted guerrilla battle in urban and country areas in their search for Noriega, the official answered, "Yes. It very well may be."

President George Bush, asked at a session with reporters whether he believed the intervention would become a guerrilla operation, said, "I don't think so," adding that Noriega has been stripped of his communications capabilities and the support of military forces that would allow him to mount an opposition in the countryside.

"He hasn't been in a jungle in a long time. And it's tough living, and he's been living high off the hog, off the Panamanian people. And so we don't expect" a kind of mountain guerrilla organisation to arise reminiscent of that led by Cuba's Fidel Castro in the 1950s, Bush said.

Defence Secretary Dick Cheney, in a separate session with reporters, said that while major resistance from the Panamanian military had ended, he could not "rule out any possibility" of such things as terrorist attacks.

"It's still a situation in which there is ongoing conflict and firefights," Cheney said, acknowledging the possibility of individual terrorist strikes and the taking of US hostages.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1524 — Vasco da Gama, Portuguese navigator who discovered sea route to India, dies.

1618 — Poland signs two-year truce with Sweden and 14-year truce with Turkey.

1650 — Edinburgh castle in Scotland surrenders to forces of Oliver Cromwell.

1715 — Prussians take Stralsund from Sweden, and Sweden's King Charles XII attacks Norway.

1798 — Britain and Russia sign alliance against France.

1800 — Plot is uncovered in Paris to assassinate Napoleon Bonaparte.

1814 — United States and Britain sign Treaty of Ghent in Belgium, ending war of 1812.

1838 — Sultan of Turkey, with Russian support, limits authority of Milosh in Serbia.

1863 — Saxon and Hanover troops enter Holstein.

1866 — Schleswig-Holstein is incorporated into Prussia.

1899 — Canadian and Australian volunteers land in South Africa.

1937 — Japanese troops capture Hangchow in China.

1942 — French administrator of North Africa, Admiral Jean Darlan, is assassinated in Algiers.

1951 — Libya becomes independent federation under King Idris I.

1967 — China conducts its seventh nuclear test, detonating a small device in northwestern part of country.

1984 — Iraq cancels all flights to and from Lebanon because of what it calls "inadequate security" at Beirut International Airport.

1987 — India's top Tamil leader, Marudur Gopalan, dies in sleep.

1988 — Soviet Union opens talks with exiled king of Afghanistan in Rome about new peace plan for his war-torn country.

Christians fleeing Jerusalem

Churches could become museums

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, (AP): When the Attallah family opened its shop selling silver crucifixes and painted icons in Jerusalem's old city four decades ago, almost all the neighbouring stores were owned by fellow Arab Christians.

Today only 20 of the 200 shops that line Christian quarter road remain in Christian hands, says George Attallah, who is Greek Orthodox.

"The churches of Jerusalem could become museums if people keep leaving," Attallah warned. A stream of emigration to the West has been steadily increasing, encouraged by a rise in fundamentalism and the pressures of the two-year Palestinian uprising.

The uprising has caught the Christians in the middle. As Palestinians, they are part of the anti-Israeli revolt. They suffer economic hardship alongside the Muslims.

But as the rebellion drags on without real gains, fundamentalism is strengthening and Christian hopes for a secular Palestinian state are fading.

"Christians wonder what they are going to do here if Islamic forces continue to gain power," said Geries Khoury, director of a Christian Palestinian Research Centre near Bethlehem. "Every day people are losing hope."

The Christian community is particularly outraged at this week's call by the fundamentalist Hams Movement for a general strike on Christmas Day, and Christian leaders say it will not stop them from religious observance of the holiday.

More than 30 Christian denominations have followers in the holy land.

Monsignor Michel Sabbah, the first Arab to serve as the Roman Catholic bishop of occupied Jerusalem, believes the diverse Christian community needs special nurturing if it is to prosper.

"To be a Christian in this holy land is a special vocation," he said in an interview. "It is a difficult life because of the nature of the land — always a land of wars, a land of hostility, a land of minorities and majorities."

The Arab Christians, many descendants of the first followers of Christ, have been a troubled minority in the holy land since the Muslim conquest in the 7th century.

In recent decades the Christians have been further overwhelmed by Jewish immigration and the Muslims' high birth rate.

Israeli experts estimate that in 1947, there were about 650,000 Jews, 1.1 million Muslims and 150,000 Christians in British mandatory Palestine.

Since the founding of the Jewish state in 1948, the Jewish population has increased nearly sixfold, and the Muslims have more than doubled. But the Christian community, numbering just 140,000 in Israel and the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, is smaller than it was four decades ago, government statistics show.

Palestinian leaders insist that the number is even lower, noting traditionally Christian towns like Bethlehem and Ramallah now have Muslim majorities. In occupied Jerusalem, many Christians retain their property but live abroad.

An official of Israel's Ministry of Religious Affairs said the government's policy is to protect and encourage the Christians.

"The West was always very interested in the fate of the Christians," he pointed out. "Israel wanted good relations with the West, with the Christian world, so it was in our own interest to watch out for the Christians."



Israeli soldiers outfitted for riot-control stand in Manger Square in front of a sign for the 'Christmas Tree' cafe last year. (Reuter wirephoto)

The official, who insisted on anonymity, blamed the Christians' increasing minority status on a low birth rate and the "mixed blessing" of ties to Western churches that anger fundamentalists.

The Palestinian uprising has heightened the Christians' problems.

Many Christians, well-educated and employed in schools and often from prosperous merchant families, found the deteriorating situation in the West Bank unbearable, says George Shamas, a Christian writer who has immigrated to the United States.

"Job opportunities are not available," Shamas

said. "Life is more difficult, and people don't want to be stopped by soldiers and searched and jailed day in and day out."

Still, many Christians take seriously their long-standing role as leaders of Arab nationalism. The Christian town of Beit Sahour has been an example, carrying out a much-publicised tax revolt and

boycotting Israeli-made products. "We are a Christian town and we are not going to support the Israeli economy," said a spokesman for the town's committee.

Muslim Palestinians do not appreciate the Christian contribution.

Christmas is a gloomy season in Lebanon

BEIRUT, (Reuters): For nine-year-old Charbel Sfeir, Christmas means tears, sad memories, a season of grief.

Charbel, his sister Darine, 4, and his baby brother, Chadi, survived two Soviet-made Grad rockets that hit their home in Christian east Beirut in May. The property was levelled, the children badly wounded.

The boy's only wish from Santa Claus is to bring back his dead mother and cure his wounded father. But deep down, he knows that the man with the white beard and a sled pulled by reindeer cannot work miracles in Lebanon.

The trappings of Christmas are in the shops despite six months of merciless war that only ended last September.

Luxury supermarkets cater for affluent Lebanese who have developed a taste for expensive imported goods — French wines, Iranian caviar, champagne, smoked salmon, oysters, mussels, American turkeys, and Italian cakes.

But few Lebanese are in a mood to make merry.

Blackened shop windows on shell-wrecked streets are a deterrent to seasonal glitter and tinsel.

And the sandbags and wreckage too easily

stir contrasts with past Christmases and memories of the 850 people who died in fighting between the mostly Christian troops of General Michel Aoun and Syrian and Muslim forces.

"Like now we used to decorate the Christmas tree with mummy. We used to go shopping with her. Last year, she herself sewed us Christmas clothes and baked us a Christmas cake," Charbel said at his grandmother's home in Ghazir, northeast of Beirut.

Charbel's father, Fouad, lay in bed in the two-room shabby and damp house, moaning from the pain of burns and wounds which have not yet healed.

"Last year we decorated the house. We all celebrated at home. It won't be the same anymore. She (wife) will not be among us," said the anguished father whose flesh has melted to the bones.

"I want to buy the children something for Christmas but my clothes were burned, my money was burned and my house was destroyed. I have nothing left."

The joy of Christmas is absent from the eyes of people in the shops, most still shielded by sandbags and lacking decorations.

French and Italian designs and expensive jewellery are available in high-priced shops in

Kaslik shopping centre in the Christian enclave. But most shopowners admit that even their wealthy clients are not spending much this year.

"Some of our clients have left the country while those who are staying are not partying like last years because of the bad situation," said the saleswoman at a fashionable boutique.

"Hundreds of people have died. It is very normal to have a gloomy Christmas mood," said Joseph Abu Samra, owner of the luxurious supermarket, La Cigale, in Christian east Beirut.

"We decided not to decorate window shops in respect for those who became orphans, for the deprived, the displaced, and in tribute for the souls of those who died," added Abu Samra.

"We haven't had time to forget the horrors yet."

Children's toyshops across both sides of divided Beirut provide the main reminder of the season, with shoppers flocking to them. The familiar Santa Claus figures, tolling bells and greeting children, stand outside some shops.

"When it comes to children, war doesn't count," said Selim Abu Chabke, owner of a toyshop in east Beirut.

One who stood up against Ceausescu

VIENNA, (Reuters): Corneliu Manescu, who took over the Romanian leadership on Friday after five days of mass anti-government protests, is a former foreign minister who turned against President Nicolae Ceausescu earlier this year.

Manescu, a tall, distinguished silver-haired figure, was one of six former party officials who sent an open letter to Ceausescu in March, attacking his hardline policies.

The East German News Agency ADN reported from Bucharest that Manescu had taken power at the head of group calling itself the Front for the Welfare of the Fatherland after Ceausescu fled.

Health

The 73-year-old Manescu was reported in April to be in poor health, suffering from constriction of the blood vessels and a stomach ulcer following his exile to an agro-industrial complex.

The letter, also signed by five other elder statesmen, attacked Ceausescu for failing to observe the 1975 Helsinki Accords on human rights of which Bucharest was a signatory.

It singled out his controversial scheme to raze hundreds of villages and move peasants to new urban centres, saying this violated the constitutional right to personal property.

It accused him of mismanaging the economy, and noted that for the past five or six years the Romanian people had been hit by severe shortages of food, electricity and heating as the government hastens to pay back its foreign debts.

Protest

The protest letter was also signed by Silviu Brucan, a former ambassador to the United States and the United Nations, and Gheorghe Apostol, former union leader and politburo member.

Other signatories were Alexandru Barladeanu, a former politburo member and Deputy Prime Minister Constantin Pirvulescu, a co-founder of the Romanian Communist Party and Grigore Racanu, described as a veteran communist.

Manescu rose swiftly to international prominence in the 1960s under Romania's post-war communist leader Gheorghe Gheorghiu-Dej, replaced by Ceausescu in 1965.

Acclaim

In 1967 he was the first communist to be elected president of the UN General Assembly, receiving 112 of 113 votes cast.

There he received international acclaim for his role in mediating the Arab-Israeli six days war.

He was dropped from the government without explanation in 1972, after 11 years as foreign minister, and spent four years in relative obscurity, before being appointed ambassador to France from 1977 to 1982.

Manescu was born in Ploesti on Feb 8, 1916, the son of a Romanian government official.

After studying law and economics at Bucharest University, he joined the Communist Party in 1936 and was active in its underground organisation during World War Two.

Romania at a glance

Population: 22.1 million (1979 estimate)
Area: 91,699 miles (237 million km²)
Capital: Bucharest

Overview:

Although a full member of the Warsaw Pact and Comecon (the Soviet bloc economic grouping), Romania traditionally had been considered a maverick by the West. President Nicolae Ceausescu staked out several foreign policy positions that differed sharply from the Kremlin's and

encouraged a more relaxed form of socialism than Moscow at one opposed. Workers, for example, can invest and acquire a share in factory ownership.

Economy:

● Debt to Western banks by December 1982 was estimated at \$10.1 billion, but a harsh austerity instituted by Ceausescu wiped it out by 1988.

● Ceausescu has urged better agricultural production to help ease food shortages. Shopper line up in the streets

of Bucharest for meat, cheese, edible oil and flour. Also shortages of electric power and fuel.

Relations with Soviets:

Ceausescu had urged the Soviets and the United States to stop deploying nuclear missiles in Europe and appealed for an end to the arms race. He advocated dissolution of both Nato and Warsaw Pact.

Ceausescu also had taken a sharply independent position on Vietnam's occupation of Cambodia, which Moscow supports.

Unification
worries all

EAST BERLIN, (Reuters): French President Francois Mitterrand has wasted no time in telling his East German hosts what they wanted to hear: that West Germany is not the only partner open to them and reunification is not the only way ahead.

Nationalist rapture, like that which greeted West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl in Dresden this week, worries the new East German government.

It needs Bonn's help to cope with economic crisis but wants to stay independent.

Mitterrand told his hosts at a banquet in East Berlin on Wednesday evening: "Emotion has seized the German people in union on both sides of the Elbe river."

He declared: "Other countries, starting with mine and the European Economic Community are ready to contribute to efforts to speed your development."

A reunited Germany is also a prospect that alarms the United States, the Soviet Union, Britain and the rest of Europe.

Mitterrand, who arrived on Wednesday, was the first head of state to visit East Berlin since reformers replaced the hardline Communist leadership, and the first leader of one of the "Big Three" World War Two allied powers to set foot in East Germany.

Before coming he conferred first with European Economic Community leaders, Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev and US President George Bush.

Mitterrand said a plan by East German Prime Minister Hans Modrow to establish co-operation with West Germany with a series of treaties, short of reunification, was "pragmatic."

But he said France and the rest of the EEC were "ready to consider any proposal that might be of help to you and of mutual interest." He added that a European reconstruction bank would be established soon.

Taking up the proposal by Gorbachev to ensure the rest of Europe and the superpowers had a say in the future of Germany, Mitterrand offered to host a 35-nation summit of the East-West Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE).

It could take place in Paris next year, he said, and it would help "set our determination for the 21st century rather than reviving the ghosts of the 19th century."

This was welcome news for the East German leadership, including reformists Modrow, acting head of state Manfred Gierlach and new Communist Party leader Gregor Gysi.

Gierlach, in a banquet speech, said the two Germanys should "remain separate states, keeping their own identities and creating pillars for a common European home."

Gysi told Reuters after Mitterrand's speech: "His presence here helped us, and I hope it will help still more."

"I want to Europeanise our people, to make them want to see London and Paris, not just Dueseldorf and Frankfurt."

The immediate challenges facing the leadership and popular opposition groups, which have an indirect say in government, are to prepare for free elections on May 6 and to stay off economic collapse.

Since the Berlin Wall was opened last month, the shock of seeing the prosperity gap between the two countries after 40 years of separate developments has made East Germans believe reunification is the only salvation.

Kohl, after starting his allies with a 10-point plan for a German federation last month, has striven to make it clear reunification is not immediate prospect although it remains his goal.

Quote me

"Maradona said what many had thought and some had let it be understood between the lines. It has been long known that World Cup draws are skillfully pre-determined but nobody ever protested... now that Maradona, 'Mr Disagreeable,' said it openly it's too easy to attack him." — Corriere Della Sera, an Italian daily giving weight to Maradona's remarks.

"He is a very persuasive man, but there is a steely undertone to Mr De Klerk that people don't see in public. He is very popular and he listens well, but you are risking your political life if you go to one of his cabinet meetings without doing your homework." — A South African National Party source.

"Granting the Palestinian people sovereignty is the only way to achieve just and lasting peace in this beleaguered region. It is up to the people to decide what kind of sovereignty they want, an independent state, a federation, or confederation." — Latin patriarch in an Xmas call for Palestinian self-rule.

"The plane was shot down within the perimeter of defence of the army in Awail... while gaining altitude before finally heading toward Khazroum. There is no way the missile that hit the plane could have been the Spla's unless the ruling junta wants to tell the world the two warring parties are co-existing in Awail." — A Spla broadcast on the downing of a relief plane in Sudan.

"If I must go to Fifa and explain my claims, I'll do it. I'll apologise for my public remarks, I'll apologise. But I am not going to retract anything. I said what many others had written and said." — Diego Maradona on his remark that the World Cup draw was fixed.

"I AM a Christian and many Palestinians are Christians and their plight tears my heart. I am also a black South African, and if I changed the names, the description of what is happening in the Gaza Strip and West Bank could be describing what is happening in South Africa." — Desmond Tutu in a telephone interview a day before arriving in Israel for a 5-day private visit.

"As a person empowered by the voters of Lithuania, I call upon the government of the USSR to begin official negotiations in the near future with fully empowered representatives of Lithuania on the liquidation of Stalinist crimes and on the restoration of the independence of the Lithuanian state." — Lawyer Kazimieras Motieka, a Lithuanian lawmaker.

"We also have a dictator — Moscow. If the Soviet Union is building a government of laws, well, legality and occupation don't go together." — A Lithuanian lawmaker calling for full independence for Lithuania.

"So that Romania can reclaim its destiny, the European Economic Community and its member states solemnly reaffirm their will to give it the immediate aid and co-operation of which the Ceausescu regime has unjustly deprived it." — EEC ministers in a statement.

"(It unity) is a delicate subject. The Germans must have a clear conscience. You can't play with borders. If the Germans express themselves democratically, France will not object. I am not afraid of reunification." — French President Francois Mitterrand on German reunification.

Havel to be President

Dubcek to take over as chairman of Parliament

PRAGUE, Dec 23, (AP) Playwright Vaclav Havel will become President of Czechoslovakia next week and ousted communist reformer Alexander Dubcek will take over as chairman of parliament under a political agreement announced today.

The accord was reached at talks yesterday between the Communist Party, the opposition movement Civic Forum and other political groups, the party newspaper Rude Pravo reported.

Havel, until a month and a half ago reviled as an anti-socialist enemy, will succeed veteran hardliner Gustav Husak as head of state. Husak resigned under widespread pressure on Dec 10.

"The Communist party has nothing against Vaclav Havel as a candidate for President and will not present another candidate to oppose him," the party's new first chairman, Vasil Mohorita, told Rude Pravo.

The communist caucus in the assembly, a rubber stamp of one-party rule until huge protests by Civic Forum last month, had shown reluctance to back Havel. A groundswell of popular support for him seems to have forced a change in stance.

Havel was released from prison in May after serving four months for subversion over pro-democracy rallies in January.

Friday's talks also agreed to fill 23 seats in the federal assembly left vacant by resignations and expulsions from the party, which surrendered its monopoly on power on Nov 29.

Sixteen of the seats are to go to representatives of the Civic Forum, five to its Slovak counterpart Public Against Violence and two to the Communist Party.

Communist assembly member Jozef Stanko praised Civic Forum for "great generosity and a sense of political realism" by allowing the communists to fill two seats.

For the Roman Catholic church, crippled and corrupted by the communist state, Christmas will be a joyous reawakening of hope after more than four decades of persecution.

"It will be a Christmas in freedom," said Cardinal Frantisek Tomasek, who will celebrate mass in Prague's Gothic St. Vitus Cathedral on Christmas day. "It is now possible for our priests to speak freely."

Mass was celebrated in Czechoslovak churches last Christmas, but only by priests licensed by the state. Authorities discouraged attendance by the nation's estimated 9.3 million Catholics, 60 per cent of the population.

Many believers stayed away while an unknown number of others met secretly in cramped apartments for Christmas mass performed by banned priests.

Now, everything is different. The peaceful revolution that began in November bringing an end to communist domination has opened unlimited possibilities for the church.

On Sunday, mass will be celebrated in virtually every church for hundreds of thousands of faithful. Millions more will watch it broadcast live in state TV, an event unimaginable a year ago.

Kaifu's party in danger

TOKYO, Dec 23, (AP) Two polls indicated yesterday that governing party candidates may face a strong challenge from the opposition despite efforts to boost their popularity for upcoming parliamentary elections.

Kyodo news service said 22.9 per cent of respondents in a poll it conducted said they would vote for the governing Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) in lower house elections expected early next year, compared with 23.1 per cent for the leading opposition Socialists.

Some 45 per cent of respondents were undecided, it said. However, when asked which party they support, 39 per cent named the LDP, while 26.3 chose the socialists and 26.5 said they had no affiliation.

The poll showed supporters of the opposition's proposed coalition outnumber those who want continued LDP rule by 19.3 per cent to 17.4 per cent.

Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu's approval rating plunged to 28.1 per cent from 43.2 per cent in a Kyodo poll taken the first week of December. Forty-nine per cent said they did not support his current cabinet.

Support for the Socialists, which had fallen to 21.5 per cent in the early December poll from 33.8 per cent in August, rose to 26.3 per cent in the poll taken Dec 18-19.

Kyodo said it surveyed 1,000 adults by telephone. It gave no margin of error.

A separate poll published yesterday by Japan Broadcasting Corp., the public television network, showed a slight increase in support for Kaifu since December, and a decline in the Socialists' backing.

"In accord with the general will of the public, Vaclav Havel will be a common candidate for President and Alexander Dubcek chairman of the federal assembly," Rude Pravo said.

Havel is due to be elected at a ceremonial assembly session in Prague Castle on Dec 29.

Dubcek, toppled after the 1968 Soviet-led invasion of Czechoslovakia, is likely to become assembly chairman at a regular meeting one day earlier, marking his return to official life after two decades in obscurity.

Beijing to stay Marxist course

HONG KONG, Dec 23, (AP) Chinese Communist Party chief Jiang Zemin has stressed the differences between China and fast-changing Eastern Europe and has vowed that his country will not waver from socialism.

Jiang, in an interview with Hong Kong journalists, also added a new element to the controversy over Fang Lizhi, the dissident astrophysicist taking refuge in the US embassy in Beijing to escape arrest after Chinese communist authorities crushed the pro-democracy movement in June.

The party head reiterated the government position of trying to find a way to end the impasse, but added: "Fang Lizhi must have a very good repentant attitude, otherwise how can it be resolved?"

Jiang did not elaborate on precisely what was expected of Fang to help settle the dispute that has been a major factor straining US-China relations.

Several Hong Kong newspapers carried the interview in Friday's editions. Chinese media also reported on the meeting, but left out much of Jiang's comments on Fang and Eastern Europe.

In his remarks on the pro-democracy changes sweeping Eastern Europe, Jiang said he hoped the region would remain socialist but stressed that China would not interfere.

As to what effect the situation will have on us, (believe our situation is different from that of Eastern Europe), he said.

"The establishment of our country was a matter of liberating ourselves," Jiang said in explaining the rise of communist China in 1949. "We relied on our own military, not as with Eastern Europe, which was liberated by the Soviet Union's Red Army" at the end of World War II.

The party chief also noted that the People's Liberation Army that brought the communist Chinese to power has undergone "the test of lengthy revolutionary warfare" and maintains strict political discipline.

He drew another distinction with Eastern Europe, which borders the capitalist West, by saying that China was not surrounded by capitalist countries and has always been independent.

"I can say with all confidence... we will continue forward along the path of socialism," Jiang said.

Jiang and Li Ruihan, another member of the party's politburo standing committee who met with the journalists, tried to play down the scope of Beijing's crackdown on dissent, which has been widely criticised in this British colony and the West.

Chinese media reported hundreds of arrests soon after the military suppressed the pro-democracy movement June 4, although the total number of people captured is estimated in the thousands. Authorities have conducted arrests of eight of 21 students wanted as leaders of the movement, although others are believed to be in custody.

Li said police have taken in no more than 20 people accused of being behind what the government officially calls the "counter-revolutionary rebellion."

US denounces jailing of Tin Oo

WASHINGTON, Dec 23, (AP) State Department spokesman Richard Boucher has denounced the jailing of opposition leader Tin Oo in Burma and said it undermined confidence in the election scheduled for next May.

Tin Oo, co-chairman of the National League for Democracy, has been sentenced to three years hard labour at a secret trial, Boucher told the daily State Department briefing for reporters yesterday.

He said Tin Oo was found guilty of helping military protesters during demonstrations for democracy last year, of contacting foreign organisations and leaders and sending them false reports, and of inciting people to misunderstand the government and create public disturbances.

Seoul protest

Yankee go home

SEOUL, Dec 23, (AP) Radical students shouting "Yankee go home" fought police with firebombs and rocks yesterday to protest the South Korean government and demand the ouster of American troops.

Shouting "drive out the Yankees who invaded Panama," about 250 radical students accused of engaging in activities sympathetic with communist North Korea.

The students demanded the immediate withdrawal of US troops from Panama and South Korea. Riot police stormed Dongduk before dawn to arrest 30 radical students accused of engaging in activities sympathetic with communist North Korea.

Clashes broke out near a downtown market in Seoul when hundreds of students from several colleges in Seoul occupied the streets with flaming firebombs. Riot police ready on nearby streets immediately rushed out and dispersed the protesters. About 20 students were arrested.

Radicals took up the US military action in Panama to step up anti-US protests in South Korea, calling it a "barbarous invasion which has driven people desiring world peace into shock and indignation."

US forces attacked Panamanian military bases Wednesday in a bid to capture Panamanian leader Gen. Manuel Antonio Noriega and bring him to the United States to stand trial on drug trafficking charges.



Taiwanese dissident sentenced

Taiwan police rush dissident Hsu Hsin-Liang from Taipei's High Court on Dec 23 after he was sentenced to 10 years and six months in prison for plotting to overthrow the government. (Reuter wirephoto)

Dissident gets jail for plotting

TAIPEI, Dec 23, (AP) A prominent dissident who had recently returned from 10 years' self-imposed exile in the United States was sentenced today to a lengthy jail term on charges of plotting to topple the nationalist government.

The 10-year term for publisher Hsu Hsin-Liang was automatically reduced to six years and eight months as part of a leniency programme for crimes committed before Taiwan lifted martial law in 1987.

Hsu calmly listened to the Taiwan high court verdict in a courtroom packed with policemen. Police quickly escorted him to jail after the verdict, preventing him from reading a prepared statement. He has yet to say if he will appeal.

"This is a political sentence," shouted Hsu Kuo-Tai, the publisher's brother and a legislator of the opposition Democratic Progressive Party.

Presiding judge Liu Shih-Yuan said Hsu, 48, had plotted to "overthrow the government by illegal means" before and after he left for the United States in September 1979.

Khmer Rouge rebels claim seizure of Anlung Veng

BANGKOK, Thailand, Dec 23, (AP) Khmer Rouge guerrillas yesterday claimed to have captured the third district capital since Vietnam's troop withdrawal from Cambodia three months ago, according to the guerrillas' radio.

The Voice of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea said the guerrillas had been besieging the area around the town of Anlung Veng since mid-November.

"On the 19th and 20th of December, our Cam-

bodian National Resistance forces launched an offensive to destroy and completely liberate the strategic Anlung Veng position," said a transcript of the radio report seen in Bangkok.

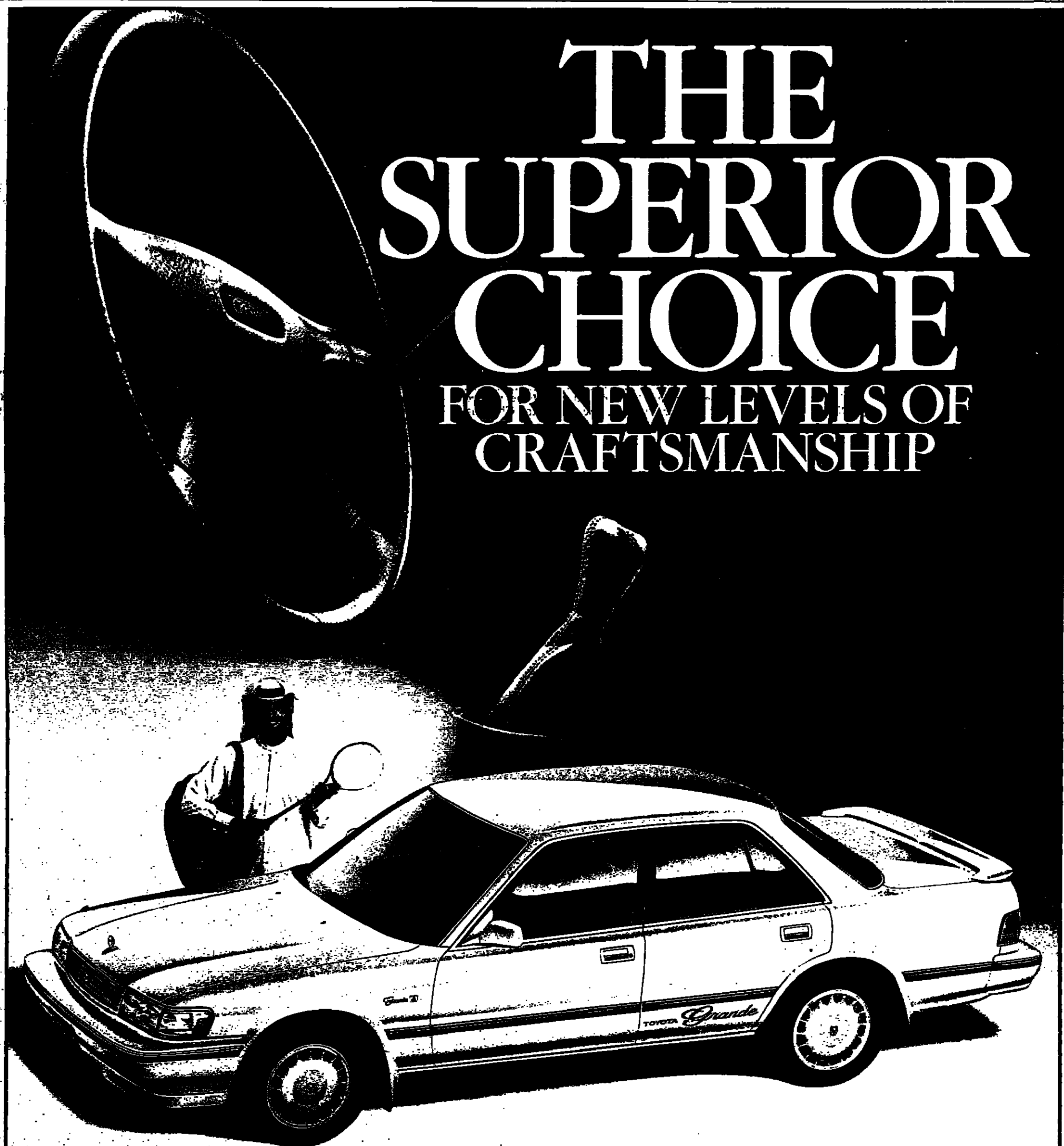
If true, the seizure of Anlung Veng would be one of the most important Khmer Rouge victories since their seizure of the western town and district capital of Pailin Oct 22.

The Khmer Rouge also say they have taken the district seat of Samlot.

The radio said Anlung Veng had protected the entire government defence network along the Dangrek Mountain Range, which marks the border between Cambodia and Thailand.

"The attack and liberation of this position... has basically dismantled the networks defending the positions of the Vietnamese enemies and their puppets along the Dangrek mountain range," it said.

The guerrillas also claimed they had "attacked and swept" other positions along route 69.



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Food security issue haunts Arabs: Jaber

Consumption increasing at 7 pc per annum

FOOD security has become one of the economic problems threatening the whole world and malnutrition is a horrific ghost which exists in several areas.

General Secretary of the General Arab Union of Alimentary Industries, Dr Falaah Jaber said that food security is represented by the capability of any nation to achieve self-sufficiency in providing food commodities to citizens through local production or strategic stores.

Interviewed by a local daily, he added that food security is one of the most threatening issues haunting the Arab world at present and in the foreseeable future. Statistics indicated that the Arab world is currently passing through dan-

gerous stage.

Arab production of essential commodities like grain, dairy products vegetable oils and sugar is less than half of the actual consumption requirements. With higher product prices in the world, the Arab world has become highly affected among other developing countries. Decision makers in the Arab world have actually started to carefully pay attention to proposals introduced by the union in the past including projects.

Arab imports for the last year reached \$30 billion almost equal to half the total Arab income from oil. Despite this fact, a third of the Arab world face a higher infant mortality rate due to malnutrition. Even

food in Arabian Gulf states for example is considered un-nutritious in the true scientific meaning of word due to lack of correct nutritional policy.

At the end of this year, the Arab world will have approximately 213 million population and will reach 300 million at the end of the century. Meanwhile, food consumption is increasing at an annual rate of 7 per cent while production is increasing at 2 per cent.

Boost

He said that Arab individuals should be employed to boost agriculture in the Arab land after training. He added that Arab income should be allocated towards agricultural projects under a unified

geographic Arab land in order to reach food security for all.

The union is a consultative Arab organisation aimed at evaluating the situation and proposing a future strategy. Jaber indicated that as an Arab union they have provided several suggestions to serve this purpose.

He pointed out that the union presents assists countries through introducing expertise needed for the development of a specific productive plan and by drawing specific strategy for manufacturing as a link among industry, agriculture and economy. He stressed that union efforts are mostly concentrated on training courses, symposiums and exhibitions.

Amir briefs cabinet on summit outcome

KUWAIT, Dec 23, (Kuna): HH the Amir today chaired a cabinet meeting at Bayan Palace, during which he briefed the council on the outcome of the 10th GCC Summit, which wound up its deliberations in Muscat last Thursday.

Following the meeting, State Minister for Cabinet Affairs Rashed Al Rashed said that HH reviewed topics discussed by the GCC leaders, which aimed at realising more integration and co-ordination among their coun-

tries in light of the economic and political changes world-wide.

The state minister for Cabinet affairs added that HH reported to the Council of Ministers the key issues discussed during the four-day summit meetings, topped by ways to push forward peace negotiations between Iraq and Iran and achieving stability in the Gulf region according to UN resolution 598.

Furthermore, Rashed indicated, HH the Amir also said that the Gulf summit tackled the

Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories and the situation in Lebanon.

Rashed said that HH the Amir acquainted the council on issues discussed during his meetings with the other Gulf leaders, held on the sidelines of the summit.

Closing the session, HH the Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah expressed deep thanks and appreciation for the sincere efforts exerted by HH the Amir and the other GCC leaders.

Service standards

Mangaf residents unhappy

DURING interviews held with a number of Mangaf area residents to highlight their opinions on the standard of services introduced they said that Mangaf area lacks many utilities and essential services. They indicated the lack of a mosque, a post office, a police station, a co-operative society and a Mukhtar.

Salem Al Sadi, said that despite the fact that Mangaf has a clinic building, it stays closed at all times. Though the clinic was built two years ago it has never received a patient. He pointed out that residents in Mangaf complained to the Ministry of Public Health and were promised that the clinic will be opened very soon.

He said that nothing has been done towards this issue so far, meanwhile the Hadiya Area Clinic opened its doors to receive patients despite being built after the Mangaf area.

Loans

He indicated that most area residents go to near by clinics and receive unjust treatment compared with other residents. Another issue which Sadi pointed out is that Mangaf residents only receive KD 10,000 as loan from the Credit and Saving Bank while residents at other areas like Ahmadi and Sabahiya receive KD 20,000. He added that they received their houses incomplete and have demanded an increase in the bank loan but did not receive a positive reply as yet. He said that they call upon officials to treat them like they treat other area residents.

Saad Khaled stated that Mangaf has no mosques and that residents were forced to transform a wooden building which can only hold 100 worshippers. He said that when worshippers are forced to perform their prayers outside the mosque they suffer from bad weather conditions.

Spill food

The other problem, Khaled stated was regarding the high spread of grocery shops which sell spill food at high prices. He said that most residents are forced to shop at these grocery shops because they don't have a co-operative society in the area. He indicated that most residents shop at Fahahel Co-operative which still has shortages in some commodities. He hoped that a co-operative will be established in Mangaf to fulfil residents needs.

Abu Saoud said that he is now living in one of the limited income houses which is small with no living room. He indicated that limited income houses were built without any beams and that they are afraid that they will collapse if they went ahead with expansion. He pointed out that he has consulted a contractor in the matter and was told that the house has a weak base and expansion may impose danger.

On the other hand, Saoud stated that Mangaf has no police station and therefore many thefts occur there. He said that many youths cause disturbance to residents during late night hours and that some youths drive their cars without any licences due to lack of police patrols.

He hoped that officials would consider establishing a municipality centre in Mangaf to preserve cleanliness. He said that the area streets are full of garbage and that it has been totally neglected by cleaning companies.

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NBK staff visit hospitalised children

In line with its deep conviction of the role it plays and responsibilities it bears towards the community, as well as in the light of its well known principles and policies with regard to community relations, NBK has recently organised a series of visits by a group of the bank's staff to children's wards in various hospitals.

The main objective of these visits was to spend some time with sick children and offer some distraction from their current circumstances.

NBK staff also took the opportunity to offer symbolic gifts to the children, a gesture that offered NBK management's and staff best wishes for a quick recovery and good health.

Hospitals visited included the Amir Hospital, Al Sabah Hospital and Mubarak Al Kabir Hospital.

Industry may face bankruptcy: Zamel

ACTING director general of the Shuaiba Industrial Area Abdul Karim Al Zamel has warned against the repercussions of what he termed "the bankruptcy of industrial companies" existing in Kuwait.

He told a local daily that the Manakh crisis that hit the country's stock market could repeat itself in the industrial sector for many reasons. The attempt by the government to drain the liquidity available to individuals or companies through floating loan bonds to cover the deficit in its national budget, is one basic reason, he said.

Other reasons included the decline by investors to finance industrial projects, discontinuation of building new industrial areas and the tendency to exploit industrial real estates in investment enterprises, similar to what occurred in Shuwaikh.

He called for the need to speed up the issue of a decree-law for construction of a public authority for industrial areas currently under study with the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, which would solve a number of issues affecting the Shuaiba Area Authority.

He described the existing legal and administrative situation in the Shuaiba Area Authority as lacking clarity, pointing out that the random decisions to strip the authority of certain functions and re-institute officers was indicative to considerable repeated losses.

He added that the problems facing the authority were referable to the absence of decision-making authority, contamination to which staff continually were exposed to and the absence of incentives to excelling staff.

He said that industry in Kuwait is still poor compared with industrial achievements made in other sisterly Gulf countries, stressing the need for earnest efforts to nourish the industrial sector in Kuwait.

He underlined the importance of regular follow-up and attention to the implementation of recommendations stated in the joint economic report published two weeks earlier.

He stressed that the authority must be entrusted with powers to disentangle the shared functions with the other government agencies, and that the existing legal structure at the authority is partly to blame for its current problems.

Social effects of divorce

Quran provides values: Ali

ON the social effects of divorce, the Holy Quran provides a magnificent exposition of the humanitarian and spiritual values and benefits of marriage in Islam, where tranquility and serenity form the base and love, and harmony and mercy prevail.

Sheikh Ali Sabah Al Salem Al Sabah, governor of Ahmadi told a local daily during an interview.

He said that the Holy Quran clearly established how the physical and living relations of Muslim couples must be and set limits between the lawful and the unlawful, stressing the importance of maintaining the marriage, safeguarding the secrets of the spouse and having patience during disputes.

He said that divorce could seem to be the only solution after the collapse of good efforts to bring together differing spouses by relatives and friends aimed at smoothing over difficulties and reconciling differences.

He pointed out if all these attempts to maintain a marriage from destruction and safeguard married life should fail, divorce would take place as an abhorable necessity to give the differing spouses the chance to a fresh, hopefully, better start.

Undoing

He said that problem of divorce as seen in the perspective of our existing society is a real social plight, which had been responsible for the undoing of so many families.

He said that his belief that the reason for the increasing cases of divorce in Kuwait was the conflict going on between the imported and existing set of values and so-called civilised concepts which had bad effects on our civilisation and Islamic Kuwaiti society.

He said that the material luxury, ignorance of ones Islamic religious heritage, failure to fulfil the genuine code of values and social traditions; time-honoured and passed down from our forefathers led to the disintegration of our families.

He pointed out that the consequences were definitely destructive which were represented in the delinquency of children, poor family attention to children, disobedience to parents and a marked increasing development of disrespect to society and related norms, which ultimately led to grave catastrophes of national dimensions.

He said that blame primarily rested with the individuals concerned for seeking to execute their right to divorce without adequate regard to the consequences.

He pointed out that the correct understanding of Islamic and Islamic rules on marriage would definitely have not led to the uncontrollable tearing of the divorce rate, and that evidence was clear among spouses who obeyed the laws of Allah and managed to lead their marriages clearly away from pitfalls and to steer clear of the rocks.

The one sure way to maintain the marriage, safeguard married life and protect children from falling prey to differences between the parents was

to abide by the laws of Allah and respect themselves, their life, the holy and solemnity of the bond between them, Ali said.

Meanwhile, the chairperson of the board of directors of the Girls Club Sheikh Sabiha Al Abdullah Al Ahmad said on the same subject that radical changes that hit Kuwaiti society in the wake of rapid development in different economic spheres tipped the balance of the social structure and caused, among other things, a marked disturbance in the marriage and divorce rates.

She described divorce as an unfavourable social phenomenon affecting family ties and ruining the stability of family members and bringing serious problems to children victimised by the breaking up of their parents.

Rights

She said that the divorce rate was responsible for the high rate of delinquents, social misfits and increasing crime rate, and that although married couples under Islamic regulations had the right to divorce, the execution of this right must be used only when all attempts to save a collapsing marriage fail.

She said that among the reasons responsible for the high rate of divorce was the relatively young age of either spouse; the age difference between the married couple; lack of experience in life and inability to shoulder marital responsibility by either spouse; poor knowledge of family life and related responsibilities and failure to attempt to save the marriage by the differing couple.

Excessive interference by parents into the affairs of differing spouses and at times encouraging either to seek divorce instead of attempting to save the marriage by patching up differences and the continuous absence by either spouse from home, over-involvement by either in their own personal matters at the expense of family life, lack of harmony in social standing between the married couple, lack of co-operation and reasoning to sort out serious differences, hasty decisions to marry and hastier to divorce, are also reasons.

She said the proposed ways to save marriages from collapse and guide marriages from the rocks was to set up offices to provide social and marital counsel, step up awareness in family life and the importance of the first five years of marriage which were usually spent in consolidating married life pillars, deepen ties of love and harmony among spouses, especially when a relative of either happens to live under the same roof with them.

Pre-marital education for girls and boys to enhance their insight into family life responsibilities and train them in how to avoid marriage-threatening situation is inevitable, she said. This would also help families resolve problems to save the marriage, promote marriages at the right age of maturity for either sex, and take the age-difference between the couple into consideration before attempting to bless the marriage.

Water-borne illnesses ruled out: Mutawa

POLLUTED drinking water causing any type of illness has been categorically ruled out by Mubarak Jassem Al Mutawa, assistant head engineer at the Ministry of Electricity and Water.

The problem of colouration (red) in drinking water has been addressed by the Ministry of Electricity and Water (MEW) by replacing asbestos pipes with wrought iron.

To combat the discoloration of water and to treat water produced by water produced by water desalination plants, the ministry has signed two contracts to treat water produced at Doha West and South Zour stations. The execution of both contracts is expected to be completed during mid 1992.

On the problem of increasing levels of the water table, the official said that a special study is currently being conducted by the Kuwaiti Institute for Scientific Research (KISR) at the request of the MEW and the study proposed taking protective measures to prevent water infiltration. The ministry is currently experimenting on a project to lower water level rates at one of the areas, the official said.

Concentrated efforts to undertake awareness campaigns towards water consumption by the MEW have not proved to be very efficacious and the authorities are quite concerned on this issue and are studying

alternate methods to obtain the desired levels of water consumption.

He added that a special plan was made to double the production of agricultural water. The total production capacity of agricultural water is estimated at 100 million imperial gallons daily. He pointed out that the ministry has divided the areas into fields and that each of the fields receives water on day to day basis but, added that all fields are water fed on Fridays.

Ground water is one of the essential water resources in Kuwait. There are ground water fields currently in Rawdatain and Um Al Aish areas in addition to other ground water fields in Shaqaya, Sulaihiya, Um Qudair, and Wafra with a total production capacity of 100 million gallons daily. The ministry has put down a plan to develop these fields in order to increase their production capacities to 170 million gallons daily, Mutawa said.

He indicated that the MEW has utilised computers in its different operations since the early 1970's to collect data directly from the operating systems and to store and analyse them.

In 1974, the ministry developed its computer network to cover operational applications. Special computer programmes were added to the system for automatic control at pumping stations, Mutawa said.



Victory Day celebrations

The Bangladesh Association in Kuwait on Friday evening arranged a cultural programme to celebrate the Victory Day of Bangladesh. The winners at the Indoor Games '89, arranged by the association, were also presented with their prizes at the function. Charge d'Affaires at the Ban-

gladesh embassy Mohsin Ali Khan was the chief guest at the function, which was well attended. Pictures show: (top) Mohsin Ali Khan (right) with the prize winners and association officials; (below) children singing a patriotic song at the function.

Concern over alcohol abuse by expatriates in Bahrain

By Yakub Razaque
Arab Times staff

LOW income expatriate workers in Bahrain tend to consume alcoholic beverages to a large extent in the course of suffering prolonged absence from home, loneliness and host of psychological and emotional problems. Despite hefty price increases in all alcoholic drinks in the island in recent times, an increasing number of low paid overseas labour force succumb to this affliction.

Bahrain is one of the few Gulf states where all brands of alcoholic beverages are imported and are readily available to all residents. Alcoholic drinks have

been sold on the island since the days when the country was a British protectorate.

Unlike Dubai for instance, any resident regardless of nationality or religion can walk into one of the four international outlets and purchase an alcoholic product without an official permit or restriction.

Regulations

However, although Bahrain's law is liberal and flexible enough to allow sale and consumption of alcohol, strict regulations are enforced for those responsible for alcohol abuse in public.

Severe fines and tough jail terms are imposed for violators whether driving under the influence or causing a public

nuisance.

Despite a massive 125 per cent price increase in custom duties last year in Bahrain, it appears that alcohol consumption has now changed among expatriates in low paid jobs. This trend seriously affects the financial position of these workers who usually earn between BD50 to 70 per month. Inevitably this affliction of drinking alcohol eats up a substantial portion of the already meagre wages of these men, who in many cases suffer acute depression. Although binges may be infrequent in the wake of high costs of the products, alcohol still takes its toll on these poor, hard-working and unhappy men.

Usually a group of workers get together and after pitching in their financial resources purchase two or three

bottles of the cheapest available drink for a weekend drinking session. These bouts last a considerably long time. Although the men eagerly look forward to such a bout as it provides them with the opportunity apparently for a poor man's soiree with friends and colleagues, the consequences in the long run can be devastating both in terms of health and finance.

Alcohol abuse has become a reality among a certain section of expatriate workers.

Married men in particular suffer from separation from their loved ones back home and turn to drink to overcome isolation and homesickness. Financial problems also turn some respon-

sible workers to take up drinking initially on a modest scale later to succumb to extreme levels.

Socialising

While a large number of expatriate labour force, particularly from the Indian sub-continent may drown their sorrows with the bottle, there are others who may indulge in this vice out of old habits or simply to "socialise" with peers. Some find it the ideal way to pass their limited leisure time.

In recent times a number of clandestine "drinking houses" have sprung up in certain parts of capital Manama and its suburbs. These illegal dens are usually operated from cheap, dilapidated flats by expatriate con-art-

ists looking for a fast buck in a short time. Some are closed down after few months of "business" by police raids. However, the same culprit somehow manages to open up shop in other areas after serving his sentence. Obviously authorities report wrong doers of such illegal practices in most cases. An expected drinks are served in this kind of illegal bar for a song.

The government has been trying to confront the problem of alcohol abuse by residents by increasing retail prices by at least 5 times in the past three years and by imposing stiffer penalties for violators. It is hoped that common-sense prevails among the ordinary workers as well as the affluent ones to deal with this vice.

EXPIRES 15/10

Yang arrives on first Gulf visit

Bid to stimulate trade

ABU DHABI, Dec 23, (AP): Chinese President Yang Shangkun arrived today for a three-country Gulf tour to cement a foothold in the oil-rich region.

Yang, 82, was greeted by United Arab Emirates President Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan with a 21-gun salute.

They will hold talks before Yang visits Kuwait and Oman on the swing that ends Dec 28.

Gulf officials said that Yang's top priority is Arab investments to compensate for the damage sustained by the Chinese economy as a result of a Western boycott following the suppression of the democracy movement earlier this year.

"Yang is expected to give guarantees to the Gulf leaders to convince them to channel part of over \$300 billion in Gulf Arab investments abroad, mainly in Western states," said a Gulf diplomat, who cannot be named under his embassy rules.

Yang is accompanied by Finance Minister Wang Bingkuan and the Vice Minister of Foreign Economic Relations and Trade, Lu Kuejian.

Foreign Economic Relations Minister

Zheng Tuobin was in the UAE a few weeks ago and told reporters that "China is looking for funds."

He said during his visit: "China is negotiating with the UAE and other Gulf countries to get loans to finance projects which were shelved because of the boycott by the West."

Yang was also reported interested in exporting Chinese labour to the Gulf to join the millions of expatriates working in the sparsely-populated Gulf countries.

Links

Yang flew to Abu Dhabi from Egypt, which Beijing has provided with spare parts for Soviet-made weapons.

Yang's tour is his first foreign trip since he took office in April 1988 and the first to the Gulf by a Chinese President.

It followed a string of visits by lower ranking Chinese officials seeking to boost economic ties with the region.

The UAE, Kuwait and Oman are members of the Gulf Co-operation Council, which also includes Saudi Arabia, Qatar and Bahrain. The alliance seeks to integrate the economies of its member

states.

Most Gulf states are staunchly anti-communist. But Kuwait established diplomatic relations with Beijing in 1971. It established ties with the Soviet Union soon after independence in 1961.

The UAE and Oman followed Kuwait's example in the mid-1980s and opened relations with both communist powers. Qatar followed in 1988.

Bahrain this year established ties with Beijing, but has yet to do so with Moscow. Saudi Arabia still shies from either move.

But the oil-rich kingdom bought medium-range CSS-2 missiles from China two years ago and has allowed the Chinese to open a trade office in Riyadh, the capital, to develop economic links.

Trade

The Chinese have also emerged as major arms suppliers to other Middle East countries, including Iran and Iraq.

Beijing has denied it supplied Iran with Chinese-made Silkworm anti-ship missiles which were used in the 8-year war with Iraq. Kuwait, which supported Iraq, was a target for Silkworm attacks.

Trade between China and the four Arab states Yang is visiting totalled \$495 million in the first 10 months of this year, compared to \$78 billion for Chinese trade world-wide, a Chinese diplomat said.

China's exports to the UAE in the first 10 months of 1989 totalled \$170 million with UAE exports to China pegged at \$36 million, the diplomat added.

Zheng said during his visit to the UAE that China will introduce more goods to the regional market and will encourage Gulf states to do likewise in China.

UAE Minister of Economy and Commerce Saif Al Jarwan said the Emirates have more than 100 new products that could be exported to China, which already buys aluminium, diesel oil and fertilisers from the Gulf state.

Several Chinese firms have set up bases in the UAE since diplomatic ties were established in 1984.

Officials said China and the UAE have also been discussing an accord to mutually protect and develop investments, but did not say whether it would be signed during Yang's two-day stay.

Banks to begin debt settlement

Commencement on Jan 2

KUWAIT, Dec 23, (Kuna): Kuwait Central Bank has instructed local commercial banks to commence settlements of difficult debts as recommended by the Joint Committee on Economic Recovery in the country, its Governor Sheikh Salem Abdul Aziz Al Sabah said today.

Sheikh Salem, who also heads the committee appointed by HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister to follow up measures taken to resuscitate the economy, today chaired the committee's second meeting held at the Central Bank's building here.

The committee is entrusted with supervising implementation of the report, drawn up by a mixed government and business committee, to reactivate the economy which has been approved by the council of ministers this December 5. Recommendations included in the report are to be carried out within a period ranging between one and six months.

In order to expedite measures recommended by the report, Sheikh Salem said the committee has decided to solicit the opinion of some officials in charge of various economic sectors concerned on ways to upgrade performance in these sectors and has scheduled weekly sessions as of early next year.

On the recommendation of the

joint committee to speed up the settlement programme for difficult debts, the Central Bank governor said instructions had been sent out to commercial banks to begin as of next Tuesday, coming January 2, processing of clients' debts not exceeding KD250,000 and to finish the process within a maximum of 60 days.

Guidelines

He repeated general guidelines given by the Central Bank to be followed by local banks in carrying out the settlement of such debts, which Sheikh Salem summed up as follows:-

— In case of clients indebted to banks only, and whose financial positions had been verified, banks would immediately conclude settlements with those interested either by including mortgaged collaterals or if a third party paid the value of these assets on their behalf in return for release of the collaterals.

— Indebted persons, whose financial positions had not been cleared, banks would conclude settlements provided that such clients would forward to the banks a personal undertaking pledging correctness of the financial statements on whose basis the settlement has been worked out and authorizing the banks to

continue checking their financial positions to ascertain accuracy of the statements given.

Persons indebted to parties other than banks, such as individuals, companies, corporations etc, the banks would carry out the settlement according to the above rules and on condition that debtors would forward receipts of settling their debts with other creditors or an agreement by such creditors on conclusion of the settlement.

Business visas

Sheikh Salem explained that indebted persons against whom creditor banks had moved legal action would be excluded from these arrangements and called upon clients on whom the mentioned rules apply to pronounce their wish for a settlement within 30 days from the date which will be announced by banks for the settlement purpose.

He indicated that the Central Bank is now working on other debt categories to be settled according to recommendations to offset difficult debts.

Shamlan calls for pan-Arab university

CAIRO, Dec 23, (Kuna): Kuwait's Minister for Higher Education Ali Abdulla Al Shamlan was today quoted as calling for the establishment of a pan-Arab university with branches in Arab states.

Shamlan said that his talks with Egyptian Minister of Education Dr. Amruth Youssef with a view to organising the new higher education ministry.

He added the talks also tackled the Egyptian professors' contributions to establish the second university in Kuwait beside the old one which has only nine faculties and is not capable of accommodating more students.

Shamlan said the education strategy in Kuwait concentrates on technical education beside the university study to speed up the pace of economic development.

He elaborated that Kuwait offers 15 per cent of the seats in the university for Arab students especially sons of residents and workers in Kuwait.

Shamlan stressed the importance of the 40 year old co-operation between Kuwait and Egypt in strengthening the different educational programmes in Kuwait.

Shamlan left Egypt after a five-day official visit.

He was seen off by his Egyptian counterpart Dr Ahmad Fathi Surour, Kuwaiti Ambassador to Cairo Abdul Razak Al Kandari and other embassy staff.

Shamlan said, prior to his departure, that his visit to Egypt was successful by all standards and that his exchanges with various Egyptian higher education officials would greatly benefit the march of post-graduate studies in Kuwait.

Dr Shamlan said that they were impressed by the experiment of the Technology Institute in Banha city where theoretical and professional education were merged to graduate a qualified engineer.

The minister said that exchange of visits between officials of both countries in technical and applied institutes will be made to realise joint benefit and to exchange expertise.

He affirmed that his meeting with Sheikh of Al Azhar University Imam Jadhilhaq Ali will positively reflect on co-operation between university and Kuwait's Sharia and Islamic Studies College.



Silver jubilee celebrations

Under the patronage of HH the Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah, the Shuaiba Area Public Authority yesterday celebrated its silver jubilee.

Deputising for HH, the Minister of Commerce and Industry Faisal Abdul Razzak Al Khalid underlined the government's policy of encouraging and supporting national industries and enterprises by providing all necessary services and facilities for the purpose.

The official revealed that the country's next five-year plan would include establishment of new industrial and handicraft areas to accommodate future population growth requirements.

He praised performance of the authority in developing the Shuaiba Area into a lowering industrial zone which is a source of pride for every Kuwaiti.

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Medical faculty payments bemoaned

A LEADING official at Kuwait University, faculty of medicine has bemoaned the low level of payments extended to teaching staff of the faculty and workers in general.

Dr Abdul Latif Al Bader, dean of the faculty, speaking on the issue said that the low level of payments makes it difficult for the faculty to attract and maintain the services of highly qualified personnel and teaching staff. He specifically said that the problem had taken on added significance especially after Kuwaitis were permitted to open private clinics.

The best solution to the problem is to increase their payments and give the faculty authority to increase payments to qualified teachers as in Saudi Arabia where the dean of the faculty has the right to increase payments by 100 per cent.

Health training for school employees

THE head of School Health Department Dr Hussein Al Momen was quoted as disclosing that the School Health Department in co-operation with the Medical Emergency Department organised a training course for 215 schools' employees including teachers of secondary schools.

In an interview with a local daily, the official said that the course included training on relief and first aid activities. This step was taken in the wake of the Ministry of Public Health's undersecretary's decision withdrawing the ministry's nursing staff from the Ministry of Education secondary schools as of the beginning of academic year 1988/1989.

The training course will help the trainees to familiarise themselves with cases related to the first aid system. The school health centres had conducted the necessary medical tests for 57,104 students during

the period from 1.7.1988 up to 30.6.1988. Jleeb Al Shuyookh centre topped the number of medical examinations with about 11,795 students being examined.

Meanwhile, Momen lauded the role of the Health Awareness Unit at the department towards the spread of the health awareness among students of the schools through co-operation and co-ordination with the Health Awareness Department at the Ministry of Public Health. He added that the unit was contributing in the health oriented programmes which were undertaken by health department at the Illiteracy Eradication and Adults Education Centres and the Youth Centres.

Apart from the above the unit was participating in the televised health informational programmes in addition to the radio and press programmes.

Visit to Qatar probable

Fahd in Bahrain to settle border dispute

MANAMA, Dec 23, (AP): King Fahd of Saudi Arabia arrived in Bahrain today from Oman, where he and Sultan Qaboos agreed on a border demarcation, apparently to help settle another border dispute between Bahrain and Qatar.

The Amir of Bahrain, Sheikh Isa Bin Salman Al Khalifa, greeted the monarch at Bahrain airport.

Officially, Fahd's visit has been described as private. But a local Kuwaiti daily reported he would fly to Qatar from Bahrain later in a fresh bid to mediate a settlement to the long-running dispute over sovereignty of the Hawar islands off Qatar's coast.

The string of flyspeck isles in the Gulf are reportedly rich in gas and oil.

The dispute dates from British colonial days before Bahrain and Qatar became full-fledged states. It flared in April 1986, when

Qatari forces detained a group of foreign workers building a radar station on the Fasht Al Dibal Reef, midway between Bahrain and Qatar.

Qatar has wanted to take the dispute to the International Court and diplomatic sources said that Bahrain at one point threatened to lay claim to the Zubari region in Northern Qatar if the Qataris insisted on claiming Hawar at the Hague.

Communique

Bahrain and Qatar are members of the Gulf Co-operation Council, along with Saudi Arabia, Oman, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates.

Fahd attended the GCC's annual summit conference in Oman earlier this week and stayed on after it ended Thursday for talks with Qaboos, the

Sultanate's ruler.

A joint communique issued in Riyadh and Muscat when Fahd left for Bahrain said the two leaders discussed regional, Arab and Islamic issues and agreed to foster bilateral co-operation.

It added that "in affirmation of the special brotherly ties between the two countries," Fahd and Sultan Qaboos agreed to demarcate their common border.

That runs through the desolate region known as Rub Al Khali, or the empty quarter, and is poorly defined.

Diplomatic sources saw the demarcation move as the harbinger of a wider process to pinpoint other ill-defined frontiers in the southern Arabian Peninsula, where Saudi Arabia and Oman are flanked by North and South Yemen.

Eight beheaded in S. Arabia

RIYADH, Dec 23, (Reuters): A Yemeni murderer was beheaded in Saudi Arabia on Friday, bringing the total executed that day to eight, Saudi newspapers reported today.

Abdo Mohammed Al Saghir was beheaded in Khamis Mushayt, a town on the border with North Yemen. Three Jordanians, two Syrians and a Turk convicted of drug trafficking, along with a Saudi convicted of murder, were executed in Ar'ar on the northern border with Iraq.

According to official counts Saudi Arabia has executed 95 people this year, mostly foreigners.

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Indian embassy

APRESS release from the Indian embassy in Kuwait has stated that the embassy will remain closed on Monday Dec 25, 1989 on the occasion of 'Christmas'.

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SPECIAL REPORT

Iran trip draws criticism

Aid pours in

LONDON, Dec 23, (AP): The widespread euphoria over the downfall of the hardline Romanian leader Nicolae Ceausescu turned today to concern over the continuing bloodshed and brought pledges of money, food and medical supplies.

Hungarian radio reported today that Romanian border guards were not allowing Hungarian aid supplies into the country.

In Moscow, Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev told Parliament that the first planes with medicines and urgent supplies have arrived in Bucharest, but were being held up in the blocked airport. He said a special working group was monitoring events in Romania but provided no other details.

Gorbachev and other Soviet officials did not specify whether military aid was being considered.

The French government announced it was sending two planes carrying 30 tonnes of medical equipment and a medical team to Romania.

A conservative Iranian newspaper today lambasted the Foreign Ministry for arranging the official visit of Ceausescu earlier in the week.

The daily Ettela'at also alleged the visit provided an opportunity for international news media to portray Iran in a bad light, the Islamic Republic News Agency reported.

The Foreign Ministry would do well to offer some explanation why it arranged for Ceausescu to visit Tehran at an inopportune time when his ouster was not something difficult to guess, it said.

The staff of the Romanian embassy in Tehran declared its support for the uprising in Bucharest and for the new national salvation committee today, Iran quoted Ambassador Ilie Silas as saying.

During his visit to Iran that ended on Wednesday, Ceausescu signed a deal under which Iran would export 41 million barrels of oil and one billion cubic metres of natural gas a year to Romania.

The now-deposed leader, who Ettela'at referred to as a "shoot-to-kill," also visited the tomb of the late Ayatollah Khomeini in a near-obligatory stop for foreign dignitaries.

The Times of London reported today that the Iranian leadership "had a hard time" persuading Ceausescu to visit the tomb at the Behesht Zahra cemetery outside Tehran.

The Foreign Office in London announced that it had evacuated nine Britons including the wives and children of some diplomats. Britain said it was sending emergency medical supplies, including equipment for treating gunshot wounds and providing blood transfusions.

The British Red Cross launched a help Romania appeal and the relief organisation, Oxfam, made an immediate initial grant of £100,000 pounds (\$160,000) for medical supplies.

Sweden's government said it had allocated 20 million kronor



Back from hell

More than 100 East Germans returned home after a gruelling escape from the violent streets of Bucharest on Friday night, many of them bursting into tears as they fell into the arms of relatives and friends.

The group, mostly women and children, said they were whisked out of the Romanian capital by their embassy and then spent five nerve-racking hours at the airport as their flight was delayed again and again.

"I'm here. Thank God the nightmare is over," one woman said as she emerged at East Berlin's Schoenefeld airport.

The 2-1/2 hour flight on the East German state airline Interflug was the first out of Romania to East Germany since troops opened fire on crowds at a rally in Bucharest's main Republic Square on Thursday.

(\$3.1 million) in urgent medical and food assistance.

Christian Aid said it made a grant of £20,000 (\$32,000) through the World Council of Churches to churches in Romania and Hungary.

Many East German political, church and citizens groups expressed solidarity with the Romanian people and many called for aid to be sent to Romania.

Some set up special bank accounts to collect donations and one church group appealed to all East Germans with access to foreign currency to give one West German mark for victims of Ceausescu's terror.

The pro-Solidarity Gazeta Wyborcza in Poland published a four-page special edition today exclusively on the Romanian situation and distributed it free of charge, with a request that 100 zlotys be donated instead to the Polish Red Cross for aid to Romania.

The Polish Red Cross broadcast a radio request for humanitarian aid for Romania in the form of money, clothing and medical supplies, especially bandages. They also appealed to blood donors.

In Warsaw, Solidarity chief Lech Walesa called for action in the United Nations on behalf of the uprising.

Yugoslav Foreign Secretary Budimir Loncar instructed the Yugoslav embassy in Bucharest to contact the national salvation committee to express his country's support for the "courageous struggle for the Romanian people for democracy," the Tanjug news agency reported.

One of the influential opposition groups in Czechoslovakia, the Social Democrats, issued a statement carried by the state CTK news agency saying it "resolutely condemns brutal repression of the Stalinist regime in Romania, welcomes the fall of bloody dictator Ceausescu and wishes the Romanian people many successes on the path towards a democratic society."

Ion Ratiu, president of the World Union of Free Romanians, said he hoped to return to Bucharest soon and start a mass circulation newspaper.

Regarded as a possible future leader, Ratiu told Britain's domestic news agency, Press Association, from his home in Switzerland that "if they give me leadership I would be delighted to do it, but I don't want to impose myself on anyone."

Turkey welcomed developments in Romania, expressing hope that "calm and stability will soon be established and Romanian people's desire to develop in a period of freedom" and democracy will be realised.

Newspapers in Conservative Arab states today hailed the overthrow of Romanian leader, condemning his close ties to Israel and hardline rule.

"The only thing we know about Ceausescu was that he was a good friend of our enemy Israel," Al Bayan newspaper, based in Dubai in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), said in an editorial.

Another UAE paper, Al Khaleej, welcomed the ousting of Ceausescu because of his relationship with the Jewish state.

Bucharest declined to follow other East bloc states in cutting ties with Israel after the 1967 Arab-Israeli war.

But the UAE's Al Wabida warned that Romania would probably maintain its ties with Israel. It noted that new governments in other East bloc states had said they wanted to reopen relations with the Jewish state.

"This requires broad action by the Arab League," it said.

Saudi Arabia's Al Bilad saw in Ceausescu's fall a final end to communism in Europe that would promote international détente.

"The successive fall of communist regimes in the world will undoubtedly lead to...better results for their people," it said.



One of many Romanian youths shot by troops in Timisoara lying in hospital. (Reuters wirephoto)



Nicolae Ceausescu (left) the captured son of Nicolae Ceausescu, appears on Romanian television. (Reuters wirephoto)

The popular revolt that dislodged Romania's authoritarian leader Nicolae Ceausescu on Friday also smashed any hopes that his son Nicu had of succeeding him.

After Romanian television reported that his father had fled the country, a dazed and bruised Nicu, 38, was brought before the cameras in Bucharest Friday.

The television said he had been arrested as he tried to take a group of children hostage apparently in an attempt to escape the public's wrath.



French television journalist Jean-Louis Calderon, who was killed when he was run down by a tank while covering street fighting in Bucharest.

A tank crushed French television reporter Jean-Louis Calderon during the chaotic fighting early yesterday outside the central committee headquarters in Bucharest, Romania.

Calderon, 31, was reporting on a clash between army troops, who joined a popular revolt, and security forces loyal to ousted dictator Nicolae Ceausescu when about 30 armoured vehicles entered the square in front of the building about 2 am local time.

"It was horrible," Associated Press photographer Laurent Rebours, who had been standing next to Calderon, said by telephone from the Romanian capital. "One of the tanks turned up and just swallowed him up."

Romania In Agony



Some Romanian soldiers fight against pro-Ceausescu troops in central Bucharest. (Reuters wirephoto)

Communist fighting in Bucharest yesterday morning brought urgently needed medical supplies, the International Committee of the Red Cross reported.

The Swiss humanitarian agency addressed an urgent appeal "to all those in charge to take immediate measures so that the aid can be brought to the wounded."

reach the centre of the city yesterday morning because of the fighting. The spokeswoman, Marjolaine Martin, said that in the meantime the team had provided medical care to about 300 wounded civilians and army personnel in the airport region.



Triumphant demonstrators in the Romanian town of Timisoara hold children and candles to celebrate fall of Ceausescu. (Reuters wirephoto)

The Romanian Army backing the national revolt is running fast into a helpless situation in its fight against pro-Ceausescu police and may not be able to hold on long, Turkey's ambassador in Bucharest said yesterday. "The army is in a desperate situation. They are appealing for help from the air force and the armoured forces," Tugay Ulucevici, contacted by telephone in Istanbul, told Reuters.

Ulucevici said Army officers were appealing for Romanian architects and engineers to help them find secret underground escape tunnels built all around the palace of toppled dictator Nicolae Ceausescu.

Romanian embassies back uprising

Norway recognizes provisional govt

BRUSSELS, Dec 23, (Agencies): Romanian embassies in at least 20 countries today denounced the ousted regime of Romanian dictator Nicolae Ceausescu and supported the popular uprising in their country.

At least one country — Norway — said it had decided to recognise the provisional government as the legitimate representative of the Romanian people.

With the situation in Bucharest still chaotic, other foreign government stopped short of extending any formal recognition, but offered encouragement to anti-Ceausescu forces and promised humanitarian aid to Romania.

Romanian embassies backing the uprising included those in the Soviet Union, Libya, France, Italy, Iran, Poland, Yugoslavia, Austria, Spain and Canada. Expressions of support for the provisional government also came from Romanian diplomats posted in Bulgaria, Israel, Bangladesh, Belgium, the Netherlands, Sweden, Tunisia, Turkey and Jordan.

Norway's Deputy Foreign Minister Kari Wollebaek told the national NRK radio that Ioan Chivulescu, the Romanian charge d'affaires, would be informed of Norway's decision to support the provisional government. Chivulescu, who is based in Stockholm, said the Romanian embassy in the Swedish capital had "instructed me to put up a new

Romanian flag without the Ceausescu emblem."

The fall of Ceausescu was universally hailed as government after government denounced his authoritarian rule. Even China, which had been a staunch ally, failed to offer him support last week as protests erupted.

"We ... believe that it's Romania's internal affair," the Foreign Ministry said repeatedly. Ceausescu had applauded China's crackdown last June on pro-democracy demonstrators.

In some cases, envoys throwing their support to the uprising had been the targets of scorn in their roles as representatives of Ceausescu.

Constantin Stancu, Romania's ambassador to the Netherlands, had been jeered in the Hague by anti-Ceausescu protesters who called him a "bandit." The Romanian ambassador in Rome, Constantin Tudor, had been sharply and publicly rebuked last week by Italy's president for the violent suppression of protests by the Ceausescu government.

The official Soviet news agency Tass said the Romanian embassy in Moscow had sided with the provisional government.

"The entire staff of the Romanian embassy in the Soviet Union is in full solidarity with the Council of the National Salvation Front, the new supreme body of power in Romania, and with its platform," Tass said. The news

agency said it had received the statement from the Romanian embassy in Moscow.

In Poland, Romanian ambassador Ion Tesu stood outside his Warsaw embassy, which had been splattered with ink by anti-Ceausescu protesters, to say he and the diplomats inside were "in solidarity with the heroic outburst of national bravery" under way in his homeland.

The Romanian embassy in Yugoslavia, declared that it fully supports the provisional government in Romania and "strongly condemned" Ceausescu's "criminal actions in Romania," the Yugoslav news agency Tanjug reported.

In Austria, Romanian ambassador Transilvanian Cocarila said he represented the new government of his country.

"We are very happy that our people can at last live in freedom and democracy," a spokesman said, adding that the embassy was now called the Romanian embassy instead of the embassy of the Socialist Republic of Romania.

Joa Monces, the Romanian ambassador in Spain, told Spain's national news agency EFE that the embassy in Madrid "totally backs" the provisional government in Romania and "condemns" the Ceausescu regime. About 50 Romanian refugees demonstrated outside the Romanian embassy in Madrid to denounce the killings in their homeland.

Mother of Elena Ceausescu (above) at her Bucharest home and Romanian deputy Prime Minister Ludovic Fazkara (below) seen moments after his arrest as he tried to flee in a lorry. (Background). (Reuters wirephotos)



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Tens of thousands of people celebrate the fall of Ceausescu in the Romanian town of Timisoara.



An army tank fights with pro-Ceausescu troops as people try to protect themselves in Bucharest during heavy fighting. (Reuter wirephoto)

Hungarian Defence Minister Ferenc Karpati yesterday expressed concern that Romanian security forces loyal to deposed President Nicolae Ceausescu might attempt an attack on Hungary. He said the Hungarian Army was in constant contact with Romanian troops fighting the pro-Ceausescu forces. The Hungarian news agency MTI said two helicopters flew into Hungarian air space yesterday but left after a short while. On Friday night, two Romanian armoured personnel carriers headed towards the Hungarian border but did not cross, it added.

Fighting rages in Bucharest

Hungary request UN meeting

(Continued from Page 1)

first shipments of which began arriving today.

Bucharest radio and television, seized by the popular forces yesterday, repeatedly appealed to people and army units today to rush to the capital and aid soldiers outnumbered by the pro-Ceausescu security forces.

Fighting also was reported in Timisoara, the western city where anti-Ceausescu riots began Dec 15 before spreading across the country. Fighting also was reported in Sibiu and Brasov, north of Bucharest.

Ceausescu, who ruled with an iron fist and fought a wave of democratic reforms that swept his Warsaw Pact allies, was overthrown yesterday following days of anti-government rioting that killed hundreds, perhaps thousands, of people.

Earlier, Iliescu appeared on Romanian TV along with other members of a National Salvation Committee. The state news media said the committee was formed to run the country temporarily.

Iliescu, along with former Minister Corneliu Manescu, said free elections would be sought by April.

The International Committee of the Red Cross in Geneva reported that fighting in Romanian cities today blocked urgently needed medical supplies. Gorbachev said Soviet medicine and specialists had arrived in Bucharest but were held up in the blocked airport.

The Swiss leader also said "a number of other measures" were being worked out with Warsaw Pact allies and that a special working group was monitoring events in Romania.

An unidentified army general appeared on Romanian television this morning for Moscow to step in because "terrorist units" loyal to Ceausescu had sent reinforcements to the capital.

Although a member of the Warsaw Pact, Romania's relations with Moscow long have been strained over Ceausescu's refusal to co-operate in military and other fields, in addition to his refusal to accept Soviet-style reforms.

The upheaval comes at the close of a historic year in which the hardline leaderships of Poland, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, East Germany and Bulgaria were ousted by massive protests and replaced by pro-democracy reformers.

Despite the fighting in Romania, tens of thousands of jubilant people celebrated in the centre of Bucharest this morning, waving flags with the hated communist symbol ripped from its centre and chanting "Ceausescu is gone."

Bursts of heavy machine-gun and automatic weapons fire echoed across the city and taxis with red crosses rushed the wounded to hospitals. Helicopter gunships strafed soldiers and civilians, some of whom had also taken up arms against Ceausescu's forces.

Approximately 54 bodies were piled in a room of the emergency hospital in Bucharest, most of them civilians.

"We have some hundreds wounded, and this is only one hospital," said Dr. Marius Searles.

The security forces fighting the country's newly declared leaders were Ceausescu's hated and feared instrument of repression for years. At 700,000, the special police troops outnumber regular army forces by more than 4-to-1.

Military helicopters piloted by pro-Ceausescu forces dropped leaflets in the downtown core. Bucharest radio said. It cited the leaflet as warning insurgents to abandon "this dangerous road" and urging them to "stop before it's too late."

The Yugoslav state news agency Tanjug, quoting Romanian radio, reported an orgy of blood-letting by Sibiu and Brasov by commandos of Ceausescu's feared police force.

Commandos of the former Securitate had captured a hospital in Brasov and were entering homes and flats and shooting at random, said the report, which, like others, could not immediately be confirmed independently.

Among the dead were 7,614 people: first detained by pro-Ceausescu units and then executed, said the report.

Bucharest radio reported early today that all political detainees had been released.

In Timisoara today, the entire city seemed to fill the streets in celebration. Crowds built bonfires fuelled by portraits of Ceausescu that had been ripped down.

This is something we never expected to happen. The dictator is gone," said Ingeborg Kastrup, standing at a cathedral where she said more than 30 children were gunned down along with other demonstrators on Sunday.

Hundreds of people dug up mass graves in forested areas of Timisoara, searching for loved ones killed by troops, US and West German showed grisly footage of rows of unmarked bodies, their feet bound together.

Romanian radio said the heaviest fighting outside the capital occurred in Brasov, Romania's second-largest city. It appealed urgently for reinforcements to help the army there.

After his capture by the army, the head of state security, Gen. Iulian Vlad, went on Bucharest radio to call for unity and announced that the Interior Ministry had rid itself of elements loyal to the Ceausescu clan. He also called on the security troops to join the uprising.

Bucharest radio reported that army units backing the revolt against Ceausescu had succeeded in arresting Interior Minister Tudor Postelnicu and two of his deputies.

Gen. Ion Dinca, a leading member of the security forces, a Politburo member and one of Ceausescu's most trusted men, also was arrested by the army, Bucharest radio said.

Gorbachev said Soviets who work at Moscow's trade mission had been caught in the fighting and that one employee was wounded by the army, Bucharest radio said.

Tass said: "Armed people have penetrated the building and are engaged in intense gunfire from there. Fires have started in the building, and the lives of Soviet people, including women and children are in serious danger."

"The Soviet Union cannot remain indifferent to the fate of Soviet citizens and demands that those who have unleashed (these) actions endangering the lives of Soviet people, immediately stop them."

Tass said the fighting had forced the news agency to shut down and "temporarily abandon" its Bucharest bureau near the site of intense gun battles.

Tass called the situation in Bucharest "cries" and said 5,000 people had died in the western city of Timisoara, where the national uprising began last weekend.



A Romanian soldier loads his automatic rifle as another shoots during heavy fighting in central Bucharest. (Reuter wirephoto)

Fighting to the last

Security force tries to keep clan in power

VIENNA, Dec 23, (Reuter): The Securitate elite security force battling for power in the streets of Romania has been built up with a single purpose — to keep the Ceausescu clan in power.

Although smaller than the regular army, now on the rebel side, the Securitate troops are the privileged and strong paramilitary wing of a security web that protected President Nicolae Ceausescu from all opposition for 24 years.

Dissent was eliminated ... until this week's uprising that ousted Ceausescu, but plunged the country into fierce fighting led by the secret policemen.

As with all aspects of official Romanian life, the makeup of the Securitate is secret, but Hungarian Television estimates its strength at 70,000 men compared to the 170,000 men in the three branches of the regular services.

While the Securitate has no tanks and only limited air capability, it has armoured cars, helicopters and small arms and ammunition.

Its 17 battalions are scattered throughout the country, have special access to information and supplies and have strategic strongholds in the major cities and close to the many luxury Ceausescu residences.

Lieutenant-General Ion Mihai Pacepa, who defected as head of the Foreign Intelligence Service in 1978, said in his memoirs that the Securitate's initial function was to protect the offices of the Communist Party and the government.

But in the last 20 years "their actual duty became the physical protection of Ceausescu and his family against any foreign or domestic coup d'etat, including one originating with the Romanian military forces themselves."

Some of the fiercest fighting in Bucharest in the last two days has been around the television station under the control of the anti-Ceausescu forces who used live television broadcasts to critical effect.

Pacepa noted that the Securitate forces were "strongly indoctrinated ... with substantially better equipment and standard of living and more severe discipline than any other Romanian military unit."

During the fighting in the capital they have made devastating use of their better intelligence, sneaking through secret tunnels linking official buildings to attack demonstrators and army units from the rear.

The regular army units have access to tanks and heavier forces, but they are less well trained.



A soldier who was just shot by pro-Ceausescu troops, lies on the ground. (Reuter wirephoto)

Hundreds of dead bodies littered central Bucharest yesterday, Romanian radio said. Hundreds of people had been injured and local doctors had appealed for help, it added.

Bucharest television had reported earlier that bitter fighting between the army and forces loyal to ousted President Nicolae Ceausescu had killed hundreds and injured scores more.

Hungarian television quoted Romanian television as saying: "The villains have attacked blocks of flats. Hundreds of dead are lying everywhere. There are seriously wounded everywhere."

Ceausescu stashed away \$400m worth of gold

GENEVA, Dec 23, (AP): A Geneva newspaper reported today that there are "indications" that the family of Romania's fallen leader Nicolae Ceausescu has stashed \$400 million worth of gold in Zurich, Switzerland's financial capital.

The Tribune de Geneve said a Zurich lawyer, Moritz Leuenberger, is preparing to query the federal government about the alleged hoard. There was no immediate comment from Leuenberger and government officials.

Foreign Minister Rene Felber said yesterday his office was already in touch with the Federal Banking Commission, a watchdog body, in connection with assets that might be held by the Ceausescu family in Switzerland.

But he stressed that authorities have no knowledge of any such funds in the country.

The Tribune de Geneve said that banking commission statistics showed that accounts held by Romanian banks and other state-run agencies with Swiss banks totalled 99 million Swiss francs (\$62 million). It did not cite specific sources for the report of the gold hoard.

Swiss banks, with their strict secrecy rules, have often been alleged to be havens

for flight capital of ousted foreign rulers, ranging from Shah Reza Pahlavi of Iran and Jean-Claude Duvalier of Haiti to Ferdinand Marcos of the Philippines. But confirmation of the reported amounts has invariably been difficult or impossible.

Normally, the government succeeding a deposed ruler must ask Swiss authorities for judicial assistance if it suspects that criminally acquired assets are hidden in the neutral country.

In 1986, the Swiss set a precedent by putting a "precautionary" freeze on all assets Marcos and his family may hold in

Switzerland. The freeze was subsequently formalised following an official request from Manila.

The Swiss government said then it went ahead with the freeze order without waiting for a formal request because there were indications that attempts were being made to withdraw some of the funds.

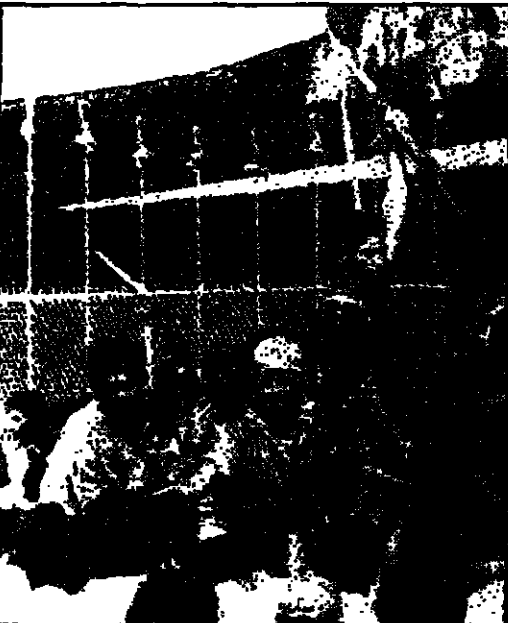
The government of President Corazon Aquino says Marcos may have plundered up to \$10 billion in government funds during his 20-year-rule and that a large part of the money is in Switzerland. Manila's efforts to recover the funds are continuing in Swiss courts.



A man looks at a victim of mass police slaughter.



A Panamanian, wounded by a sniper, arrives at the Saint Thomas Hospital and is rapidly tended by doctors. (Reuter wirephoto)



Panamanian soldiers acknowledge the arrival of US troops as they drive into the local military barracks to surrender their weapons. (Reuter wirephoto)



A member of the Panamanian Dignity Battalion burns documents, which residents of David said were intelligence files, at the local Defence Force headquarters. (Reuter wirephoto)

Hotel turns into hunting ground

Noriega supporters look for US hostages

PANAMA CITY, Panama, (AP) The invasion of Panama turned US citizens into targets and the Marriott Hotel into a choice hunting ground for supporters of Gen Manuel Antonio Noriega.

Only minutes after US troops attacked the Panamanian Defence Forces early Wednesday morning, a squad of men with ski masks and assault rifles began prowling the high-rise hotel.

By the time a contingent of paratroopers from the 2nd Airborne Division arrived 24 hours later, more than a dozen guests had been kidnapped while others became hostages to the fear.

I found myself taken hostage, hunted, held incommunicado, rescued and evacuated.

It started with these words: "The United States is invading. We're looking for American hostages." The speaker was the squad leader, and he had come to the right place. The Marriott, Panama City's most luxurious hotel, hosted a corps of journalists as well as the usual complement of foreign travellers.

He and his cohorts settled on a dozen of us, seven of whom were US citizens.

We tried to persuade them to tell their side of the story -- the point of view of those being invaded and attacked. We went in search of a telephone to call the Associated Press, but he and his men had very efficiently knocked out the phones.

But we had made a personal contact that might, just might, make it harder for him to kill us. We were taken to a private home in Noriega's neighbourhood.

Compared with the experiences of other hostages, including the continuing captivity of AP Middle East correspondent Terry Anderson who

was kidnapped in Beirut in 1985, it was not so bad. We were not blindfolded, beaten, verbally abused or tied up. Our captives gave us water and returned borrowed items like pens or cigarette lighters with a weird courtesy.

At the same time, there was the very clear possibility our situation could seriously deteriorate.

At one point, one of our kidnappers put the barrel of his AK-47 assault rifle to the head of New York Times correspondent Lindsey Gruson.

"A lot of Panamanians have died. We can kill you," he said. "Don't think we won't."

At another point, when I turned to console a fellow captive who was weeping, one of the kidnappers levelled his assault rifle at me, inches from my nose, and held it there for what seemed two or three lifetimes.

Around 4 a.m. (0900 GMT), nearly four hours after we had been taken hostage, the sounds of the fighting outside diminished. The phone rang.

"It's over," said the squad leader. "We don't want to dirty ourselves. We are going to let you go."

The squad leader crouched in front of us, tears in his eyes.

"There are hundreds of dead at the central barracks (defence forces headquarters)," he said. "Hundreds of dead."

We were put into two vehicles and freed at different locations. I, along with Gruson, Paul Trede of the Reuters news agency and three businessmen, were dropped on a curbside two blocks from Noriega's mansion.

There was still fighting on the streets. We hunkered at a hedge, trying to devise a strategy for getting back to the hotel, more than a mile (1.6

kilometre) away, and someone shot at us from the gas station across the street.

We dashed around the hedge to an apartment building and began ringing every bell. A frightened doorman appeared and waved us away with a pistol. We continued ringing buzzers, and someone inside decided to open the door.

Eventually, a brave family let me into their apartment. I was in heaven. No one was pointing a gun at me and the lady of the house made coffee. There was a view of the main battle area, the defence forces headquarters several miles (kilometres) away, which I was able to report by telephone to our office.

As we drove back to the hotel I felt terrific: alive, unharmed and free at last to report Panama's dramatic story.

But after I got back to the hotel, it was raided by a gang of civilian Noriega supporters, the "Dignity Battalions." I looked down from my 10th floor window to see three hostages face down in the back of a Toyota pickup truck full of armed men.

There was no way out. Trying to walk seemed foolhardy at best when gangs of thugs were looking for American hostages. Gruson and I barricaded ourselves in my room and I called the US Embassy and my office in New York to explain the situation.

The hotel was totally unprotected. There were 30 or more US citizens. The Dignity Battalions had said they would come back.

They didn't, but that didn't mean we relaxed. At about 4 p.m. (2100 GMT), 12 hours after I was first freed, some hotel workers came to the room.

"The Marines will be here in about two minutes," they said. "Hurry."

US rushes troops

Noriega 'guiding hand' of resistance

(Continued from Page 1)

looting overnight in defiance of a curfew.

General Maxwell Thurman, the commander of US forces, said opposition to the American invaders was "organised, not disorganised" and that Noriega was the "guiding hand" of the anti-American operation.

There were growing casualties from the United States biggest military operation overseas since the Vietnam war.

Pentagon officials said 24 American servicemen and two US dependents had been killed since the fighting began early on Wednesday. Another 238 were wounded and two were missing.

The officials said 139 Noriega loyalists from the Panama Defence Force, the country's regular army, had been killed, 95 wounded and 1,880 captured.

The two main hospitals in Panama City reported a total of 51 Panamanians civilians killed and 835 wounded, but the toll was believed to be much higher.

Noriega's representative to the United Nations said there had been as many as 7,000 deaths.

Panama City, a capital of one million people, was also facing a growing refugee problem, food shortages and lack of medical supplies for the hard-pressed civilian hospitals.

In a bid to ease the food problems, the military opened the Bridge of the Americas, a key transport route into the city from the countryside where farms are located.

The hunt for Noriega, wanted in the United States on drug trafficking charges, continued to turn up many reported sightings but no confirmations despite a million-dollar US reward for information leading to his capture.

Thurman said the Dignity Battalions -- or Dingbats, as US soldiers and reporters are rapidly learning from the locals to call them -- had "created a significant amount of mischief."

Thurman estimated there were currently about half a dozen Dignity Battalion units of about 300 people each.

The Dignity Battalions were drawn largely from working class neighbourhoods that support Noriega. Thurman described them as arising from a "substantial arming of the population in a terrorist-type organisation."

Observers also said many members of the PDF had changed to civilian clothing and joined the Dignity Battalions, helping the paramilitary forces with organisation and strategy.

Thurman said that in Colon, Panama's second city, the PDF unit had given up and turned in about 100 people and almost 1,000 weapons.

The military today broadcast an appeal setting various price for weapons turned in, offering prices ranging from 25 dollars for a single hand grenade to 5,000 dollars for an arms cache. Officials said they had already confiscated 13,000 weapons since the invasion began.

The new government of Guillermo Endara said it hoped to have a newly formed police force on the streets today, but there was no immediate evidence of the force, which was to be made up of PDF forces who abandoned Noriega.

Determined to avoid a crisis atmosphere despite continued fighting in Panama, US President George Bush enjoyed the beginning of the Christmas weekend today at his Camp David retreat and planned to go fishing and hunting next week.

The Security Council votes later today on a resolution denouncing the US invasion of Panama and demanding the immediate withdrawal of US troops, with the United States poised to veto it.

Cuban diplomats in Panama City told Cuban radio today that



Nicaraguan Ambassador to the UN Serrano Caldera addresses the UN Security Council in New York. (Reuter wirephoto)



Two members of the light infantry from California hold positions securing Panama City's international airport. One soldier is holding an M-16 equipped with a 40mm grenade launcher. (Reuter wirephoto)

Cocaine, porno and blood found

Witch house stormed

PANAMA CITY, Dec 23, (Agencies) US troops think they almost got Gen. Manuel Antonio Noriega on the first day of the intervention when they broke into a fortified house, finding signs of panic flight and, by one account, "vats of blood", animal entrails, cocaine and pornography.

The abandoned office and house, on the seacoast near here and close to several US military bases, was stormed by US soldiers on Tuesday, about six hours after the US invasion began.

"The cigarettes were still smoking in the ashtray and the women left their purses, which no woman would ever usually do," a soldier familiar with the

house said Thursday.

But Noriega was not to be found in the retreat that had been specially built for him and his family, used scouring the countryside yesterday for the deposed leader wanted in the United States on drug charges.

The American soldier, who would not give his name, said troops who saw the house spread a word that one room was apparently devoted to the occult where four Brazilian witches did bidding, with blood and entrails. Military officials could not immediately confirm the soldier's account.

Saying the house might have been booby-trap-

Noriega: master of decoys

Elusive target

WASHINGTON, (UPI) United States intelligence successfully tracked Panamanian dictator Gen Manuel Antonio Noriega for more than a month, but "lost" him the day before special US military forces supported by thousands of troops invaded the Central American nation, a published report said Saturday.

The Washington Post reported the National Security Agency and the CIA tapped Noriega's radio communication and dispatched agents to monitor his movements during the five weeks prior to the Wednesday morning invasion, of which the most specialised details focused on two Noriega lairs and two airfields.

President Bush had ordered the invading forces to "decapitate" the Panamanian government by apprehending Noriega, 51, head of the country's defence forces and the real power behind the nation's civilian government. The United States alleges Noriega is a potent figure in the illegal drug trade and has indicted him on narcotics charges.

Some officials believe Noriega fled to the jungle and mountains of northern Panama where he was born and where he maintained a military training centre. Intelligence sources told the Post that Noriega still could flee the country despite US efforts to seal the border.

US intelligence officers working under Southern Command chief Gen Maxwell Thurman participated in the "Noriega watch," and were 75 per cent to 80 per cent certain they could find him if Bush gave the order, the Post reported.

The Post reported Noriega may have moved as many as four or five times a night, using decoys to confuse covert operators. The day before the invasion, the US tracked Noriega, then lost him. Intelligence received only "spotty" information on his whereabouts from that point, the Post said.

Noriega was trained in covert operations and is alleged by some to be a member of the CIA. Representative Dave McCurdy, Democrat of Oklahoma, a member of the House Armed Services Committee and the House permanent select committee on intelligence, said Noriega is a master of decoys and his strong intelligence organisation in Panama lulled US covert operators to rely too heavily on him for too long.

In preparing to capture Noriega, the United States dispatched a navy seal commando group to Punta Paitilla airfield, thought to be a potential departure point for a Noriega escape. The 20-member unit walked into a firefight with pro-Noriega forces. Four seals were killed and seven wounded, but a plane that could have flown Noriega out of the country was neutralized.

Another sea-air-land team raided a seaside villa on the Pacific ocean, but found only smoking cigarette butts in an ashtray and women's purses. In Panama City, more special forces entered the apartment of an alleged Noriega mistress, but found no trace of him.

resistance to the US invasion was spreading and that US forces were not in control of the city.

"Resistance ... is spreading in the city," Cuban Consul Jose Luis Mendez told Radio Rebelde in a telephone interview from Panama City.

Mendez said US helicopter gunships had gone into action overnight in the San Miguelito district and in the San Francisco area of Old Panama. He also

reported fighting around the Via Brasil and at Santana in the direction of the El Chorrillo district.

The Cuban diplomat said civilians were joining the Dignity Battalions, militia forces loyal to Noriega, to fight the occupying US troops.

"They've resorted to irregular warfare, guerrilla warfare," Mendez said.

The man who read a rebel proclamation in October saying that Noriega had been overthrown walked out of an island prison today with 75 others involved in the failed coup attempt.

The former spokesman for the Panama Defence Forces (PDF), Daniel Alonso, contacted Reuters this morning to say that he and the others had escaped from the prison.

The English language version expressed regret, the Spanish translation deplored the operation. The OAS urged an immediate end to the fighting and said American troops should be withdrawn. The vote was 20 to 1: only the US delegate voted no.

White House, Kremlin in rule and role reversal

Efforts by both sides to keep Panamanian episode from intruding into the thaw in East-West relations

WASHINGTON, (AP) There's something of a role reversal and, it seems, a rule reversal as well in the way the Kremlin and the White House are dealing with each other on the US intervention in Panama.

Their words and contacts point to an effort on both sides to keep the episode from intruding on the thaw in East-West relations.

The Soviet Union denounced the US military move, calling it an invasion and an act of aggression, but adding to that predictable response the observation that it will not necessarily become a problem issue between Moscow and Washington.

President George Bush sent a personal message to Soviet President Mikhail S. Gorbachev on the military action he ordered early Wednesday against the Panamanian regime of Gen. Manuel Antonio Noriega.

He told a news conference Thursday that he needs to explain the operation to Gorbachev more

fully.

"It's not altogether surprising that he doesn't understand some of the special arrangements the United States has in Panama," the president said.

Bush said he had responded to provocations that included the killing of an unarmed US Marine, the brutalizing of US citizens and the denial of office to a freely elected leader.

Given all that, he said, his message would be:

"Then, Mr Gorbachev, please understand, this president is going to do something about it."

"So we have to explain," he said.

Secretary of State James A. Baker III said the critical Soviet statements were not unexpected, and that the initial comments may have been issued before the first Bush message reached Gorbachev.

Not that it would have made much difference. US intervention, whatever the cause or justification, is guaranteed to produce critical reaction from Moscow, just as the United States has assailed

Soviet moves in Afghanistan and elsewhere. Furthermore, Noriega has close ties with Cuba, the Soviets' Western hemisphere ally, and with the Marxist government of Nicaragua.

"The United States must immediately stop its armed intervention in Panama," said Vadim P. Perfiliev, spokesman for the Foreign Ministry in Moscow. A Tass commentary said the US action encroaches on the progress attained elsewhere in world affairs.

But those comments were tempered by Perfiliev's observation that superpower relations have moved beyond the point at which any such episode, anywhere in the world, was deemed a matter of East-West confrontation.

The US intervention comes as the Soviet Union watches barriers fall and governments turn from communist dominance toward democracy and free market economic systems. Moscow once proclaimed a doctrine of limited sovereignty for the

satellite states, insisting on its right to intervene against threats to their communist regimes.

Intervention to keep the satellites in line was a Moscow habit during the height of the cold war. It happened then in East Germany, in Hungary, in Czechoslovakia, in Poland.

Gorbachev turned away from that posture. Indeed, while the Romanian government was trying to put down protests with force, the Soviet president said Wednesday that changes in Eastern Europe should come "peacefully, without violating public order and the rights of citizens."

Moscow has not resisted the freedom movements that have changed the face of Eastern Europe.

Sen. Sam Nunn, chairman of the Senate armed services committee, said it was unfortunate that the United States "was required to take these steps in Panama at a time when we are urging restraint on the part of the Soviet Union toward other nations and on the part of China toward the democratic

aspirations of its own people."

Baker said the Soviet Union is supporting democracy through its forbearance, and argued the United States is doing so by doing the opposite in Panama, by intervening.

"Let me say that I think both the United States and the Soviet Union today are supporting democracy," Baker said at a first-day briefing on US intervention in Panama.

"The difference is that the Soviet Union supports democracy by staying out of countries and thus permitting democracy to proceed. In this one and very unique instance, the United States did it by going in to assist a democratically elected government against a dictator."

The Panama operation drew protests from most Latin American capitals, even from governments hostile to Noriega. He may be detested, but so is Yankee intervention.

Mexico, for example, said Panamanian

problems must be resolved by the Panamanian people.

But they tried, and Noriega wouldn't let it happen, which is the Baker argument.

Noriega reneged on this year's elections because he was losing, and installed his proxies to govern. The Organisation of American States tried to talk him into yielding power to an elected government: five times its emissaries went to Panama City on that futile mission.

Latin American states voted at the OAS on Friday for a resolution assailing the military intervention in Panama, a measure that gained something in the translation.

The English language version expressed regret, the Spanish translation deplored the operation. The OAS urged an immediate end to the fighting and said American troops should be withdrawn. The vote was 20 to 1: only the US delegate voted no.

24 Dec 1989

Rival Shiites battle in S. Lebanon

SIDON, Dec 23, (Agencies): Houses in strategic villages in south Lebanon were set ablaze as rival Shiite Muslim militias battled today with mortars, rocket-propelled grenades and heavy machine-guns.

Twenty people were killed and at least 40, mostly civilians, were wounded in the fighting between the Syrian-backed Amal and pro-Iranian Hezbollah, hospital and security sources said.

Hundreds of frightened villagers fled the battle zone, some carrying bags containing a few clothes. Others huddled inside their stone homes as the two militias launched offensives and counter-offensives.

Many of the houses in the villages were set on fire, witnesses said. "We can see

smoke rising above some of the war zones," one said.

The fighting erupted at dawn and raged unabated across six hamlets in Iqlim Al Tufah district, which stretches south from the port of Sidon to Israel's self-declared security zone. The sound of exploding shells echoed across Sidon.

Hezbollah fighters captured the Amal-held village of Kfar Fila and Amal, which had sent in reinforcements of 200 men, was launching a counter-attack to regain it, security sources said.

They said Amal was also pounding Hezbollah's supply routes through the eastern Bekaa valley with a blanket of artillery fire. Amal and Hezbollah blamed each other for the fighting. An Amal spokesman said

it erupted after Hezbollah launched a dawn assault on Amal positions in the town of Jubah. Hezbollah replied with similar accusations.

The two militias had massed fighters last week in Iqlim Al Tufah, a strategic region 40 km (25 miles) south of Beirut. It has been used to launch attacks on Israel and its security zone in South Lebanon.

At least 200 people were killed last January in battles in Beirut and Iqlim Al Tufah between Amal and Hezbollah, rivals for the leadership of Lebanon's 1.5 million Shiites. The fighting ended under a peace pact sponsored by Tehran and Damascus.

Muslim political sources linked today's battles to Amal's refusal to allow free

movement to Hezbollah in south Lebanon. They said Hezbollah, which is dedicated to fighting Israel, was determined to regain its lost foothold in the south at any cost.

Amal, the largest Muslim militia, regards the south as its preserve and says Hezbollah should have no active role there.

The political sources also said Hezbollah was seeking a base in the south in case it was forced from Beirut under terms of an Arab peace pact calling for all militias to be disbanded.

Religious-based armed groups would have to leave Beirut as a first step in implementing the pact, the sources said.

Two Palestinians shot dead

Clash in Bethlehem

BETHLEHEM, Occupied West Bank, Dec 23, (AP): Red-beretted Israeli paratroopers closed stores and ordered Bethlehem holiday shoppers home today after a clash with masked youth across from the traditional site of the birth of Christ.

Israeli troops shot dead two Palestinians and wounded 46 in clashes in the occupied Gaza Strip and West Bank today, Arab hospital officials said.

The worst clashes occurred in Rafah refugee camp in the Gaza Strip when soldiers hidden in a house ambushed masked youths painting slogans, Palestinian sources said.

The ambush sparked clashes throughout Rafah in which soldiers killed Emad Al Atrash, 17, and Mohammed Al Hourami, 22, the sources said. It was not clear if the dead men had been among the slogan painters.

Twenty-five other Palestinians were shot and wounded during the Rafah disturbances, hospital officials said. An army spokeswoman confirmed troops killed one youth in Rafah, but did not identify him.

In Bethlehem, masked youth burned tyres and hurled stones at army patrols across from the Church of the Nativity. The site marks the manger where tradition holds Jesus was born.

Troops dispersed the stone-throwers by shooting in the air and firing tear-gas into the narrow alleyways of the nearby marketplace, where the youth fled.

Paratroopers and purple-beretted troops from the elite Givati Brigade ran through the marketplace shouting "Ruhi Al Beit," Arabic for go home, to holiday shoppers and demanded that local youths use brooms to sweep the streets clean of debris from the burning tyres.

One enraged woman shopper turned to a soldier and said: "You can't close the shops, this is our holiday," but the soldier ordered her home.

Slogans were seen throughout the town calling for increased clashes with troops to mark the holiday.

"Let's escalate against the Zionists on Christmas day," was spray-painted in black on one stone wall. It was signed by the clandestine underground leadership of the uprising.

The underground leadership had ordered shopkeepers to stay open until 5 pm and not close at noon to mark a Palestinian strike that has been in force since the start of the uprising against Israeli occupation two years ago.

At least 627 Palestinians have been killed by Israeli troops or civilians since the Palestinian revolt began. Forty-three Israelis have also died in the violence and Palestinians have slain 161 of their fellow Arabs on suspicion of co-operating with Israeli authorities.

Also today, the Islamic fundamentalist Hamas movement cancelled a Christmas day strike after protests from Palestinian



Tutu looks at a Palestinian boy who gives the 'V' sign as he passes the Dome of the Rock during the tour of the Temple Mount. At right is Sheikh Mohammed Al Jamal, deputy Mufti of Jerusalem, and second from left is Faisal Hussein, a leading activist. (Reuters wirephoto)

Tutu backs Palestine

Israeli, S. African policies alike

BETHLEHEM, Occupied West Bank, Dec 23, (Reuters): South Africa's Archbishop Desmond Tutu, in Israel for a Christmas pilgrimage, gave his backing today for an independent Palestinian state.

"We want to support legitimate aspirations for an independent state for the Palestinians and we affirm the right of the Israelis to their own state," Tutu told Reuters after meeting Christian religious leaders in Jerusalem.

"We hope both people will recognise they belong to one family, the family of God," Tutu said. The Nobel peace laureate, the first black to head the Anglican church in South Africa, arrived yesterday after giving a newspaper interview in which he compared Israel's handling of Palestinian protests with police action in his own country.

On Jerusalem's Temple Mount, a site regarded as holy to both Jews and Muslims, Tutu joined Muslim religious leaders and Palestinian activists including leading PLO-supporter Faisal Hussein in a moment of prayer at a stone memorial for slain Palestinians.

The stone prayer platform was built in memory of the more than 600 Palestinians killed by Israeli-supported Christian militiamen in 1982 at the Sabra and Chatila refugee camps near Beirut.

"We support the struggle of the Palestinian people in their longing for statehood and independence," Tutu told the gathering of about 30 Palestinian dignitaries. "We are struggling for our own self-determination in South Africa."

Christians and rescheduled the work stoppage for Dec 27th.

The Palestine Liberation Organisation demands the right to name publicly the Palestinian delegation to proposed talks with Israel, a PLO leader reiterated in remarks published today.

Abdullah Hourani, a member of the PLO's Executive Committee,

told the English-language Jordan Times that the PLO had been asked to give Egypt a list of names to be passed to Washington.

"But the PLO will not deliver a list of names to Egypt or any other third party," Hourani was quoted as saying. "If there will be a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue, the organisation will name the delegation publicly."

Assad-Mubarak summit imminent

Egypt, Syria to restore ties

CAIRO, Dec 23, (Agencies): Egypt and Syria will soon restore diplomatic ties after a decade of strained and sometimes hostile relations, an Egyptian minister said today.

Syrian Vice-President Abdel-Halim Khaddam, paying the first official visit to Cairo by a senior Syrian official for more than a decade, said Egyptian President Mubarak and Syrian leader Hafez Al Assad would hold a summit meeting "very soon."

"That summit will lead to practical and tangible results on the path of correcting Egyptian-Syrian ties," he told reporters.

"During that meeting there will be an announcement on some steps and measures to correct the path of ties between the two countries."

An Egyptian minister, asked if Khaddam's comments meant the restoration of diplomatic ties, said: "Yes, that is understood from what he just said." The minister declined to be named.

Syria and Libya are the only two Arab countries yet to restore diplomatic ties with Egypt, broken after its 1979 peace treaty with Israel.

But relations have been improving slowly with Tripoli and Damascus since Egypt was readmitted to the Arab League in May.

Mubarak paid a surprise visit to Libya for talks with Libyan leader Muammar Khaddafi 11 days ago. The two countries have also reopened their desert border and resumed air links.

Air links between Cairo and Damascus were resumed 10 days ago and soon afterwards Mubarak sent a special envoy to Syria.

At a meeting of European and Arab foreign ministers in Paris this week, Egypt boosted its standing with the European Economic Community to lift economic sanctions against Libya and Syria.

Khaddam declined to confirm directly that diplomatic ties would be restored. But asked if the word "correcting" meant a resumption in ties, he said: "It is natural that when we say correcting the ties we mean it in the comprehensive sense and not in its narrow meaning."

We are confident that comprehensive relations in the various fields will be rectified after the meeting.

Khaddam said Assad and Mubarak would decide where and when to meet. On the timing, he said only that the summit "will be in the very near future."

Khaddam said his talks with Mubarak had not touched on possible Syrian co-ordination with the four-nation Arab Co-operation Council (ACC).

Syria's foe Iraq is a member of the economic group, along with Egypt, Jordan and North Yemen.

Egyptian officials said they would take Khaddam on a tour of Cairo, a city he has not seen for 13 years.

Prime Minister Atef Sedki greeted Khaddam at Cairo international airport and accompanied him to the presidential palace for the meeting with Mubarak.



Syrian Vice-President Abdel-Halim Khaddam (left) is being welcomed by Egyptian Prime Minister Atef Sedki upon his arrival at Cairo airport. (Reuters wirephoto)

Sedki told reporters after the talks that he expected "great things" from Khaddam's visit and from "the coming steps," which include deliberations among technicians in various fields.

Mubarak and Assad had their first meeting after the rupture during an Islamic summit conference in Kuwait in 1987, but relations remained so strained that Assad's aides denied the session occurred. They met again last May on the sidelines of an Arab summit in Casablanca, Morocco.

A further step in the rapprochement came this month when the two leaders agreed by telephone for their countries to resume air links.

Khaddam spoke to reporters at Cairo international airport about historic ties between Egypt and Syria, referring to their merger between 1958 and 1961. He described the rift since 1977 as "a passing cloud."

"This eventual record full of shared hopes, blood, tears and aspirations is something that distinguishes the relations between the two countries," he said.

Khaddam later flew home. Sedki said both states would explore avenues of co-operation ahead of the summit.

"While waiting for the meeting other talks on the technical side will convene... to set the ground for the fields in which we can immediately co-operate," Sedki said.

Iran abducts 3 soldiers, claims Iraq

BAGHDAD, Dec 23, (Reuters): Iraq said today that Iran had seized three of its soldiers along their border and expressed concern at deaths among Iraqi prisoners of war (PoWs) in Iranian camps.

The unnamed soldiers were abducted in no-man's-land on Dec 14 as they tried to fetch water from a spring, 250 metres from their own positions and a kilometre (half a mile) from Iran's front line, the official INA news agency said.

It said Baghdad had protested to UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

Iraq and Iran have regularly accused each other of violating a ceasefire that began in August last year after

eight years of conflict. Peace talks held since have stalled. INA added that the Foreign Ministry was concerned at the deaths of 22 Iraqi PoWs in Iranian prisons, of which it had been informed by the International Committee of the Red Cross a week ago.

The deaths raised questions about the way other PoWs had died, it said. Iranian explanations that most died of heart attacks were not sufficient.

INA said Baghdad had asked the Red Cross to seek more information about the deaths and prevent "inhuman tactics" against Iraqi prisoners.

Iraq and Iran hold a total of about 100,000 PoWs.

Iranian charged

LONDON, Dec 23, (Reuters): An Iranian student was charged yesterday with an arson attack on a London bookshop selling copies of British writer Salman Rushdie's novel "The Satanic Verses."

The attack in April followed an order by the late Iranian spiritual leader Ayatollah Khomeini that Rushdie's novel blasphemed against Islam and its author should be killed.

Police said Mehrdad Kokabi, 33, would appear before a London court today in connection with the attack.

He has also been charged with conspiring to cause explosions with unnamed accomplices.

Rushdie has been in hiding under police guard since the October 1989 fatwa.

Two Iranians arrested with Kokabi in Manchester have been released and a third is expected to be charged. Another Iranian, arrested in London this week, has been released.

Official visit

Yemen's Prime Minister Ali Abdullah Saleh will pay a three-day official visit to the Yemen Arab Republic on Dec 27, it was announced here today.

Andreotti will hold official talks with Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh on bilateral relations, current international issues and Arab-Italian relations in General.

The Italian top official will be accompanied by a delegation of government and Italian institutions to consider ways of promoting relations between the two countries.

After concluding his visit to the Yemen Arab Republic, Andreotti will pay a one-day visit to Democratic Yemen.

Accuse each other

NAIROBI, Dec 23, (AP): Southern rebels and the Khartoum government traded accusations of blame yesterday for the downing of a light plane on a mercy flight in southern Sudan.

Four people, including three French nationals and a Sudanese, were killed when their twin-engine Britten-Norman Islander was shot down near Awel on Thursday.

United Nations sources said two of the victims were a doctor and a nurse, being evacuated from the town, a government garrison said to be surrounded by rebel forces.

In the capital, the armed forces general said the plane was shot down by a Sam-7 ground-to-air missile fired by the Sudan People's Liberation Front.

But the clandestine SPLA radio, in a broadcast monitored in Nairobi, said the Sudanese Army downed the plane "in an attempt to wreck relief work and justify its continuing ban on relief activities in southern Sudan."

The armed forces said the rebels shot down the plane in an effort to undermine peace efforts and destabilize the country. The general command's statement called the victims "humanitarian messengers who devoted their lives to the service of man in his most difficult times."

Euro-Arab meeting ends with stress on economic, technical co-operation

PARIS, Dec 23, (Reuters): The European Economic Community promised Arab leaders at a meeting of their foreign ministers yesterday that the dramatic events in Eastern Europe would not overshadow their links with the Arab world.

And speaking for the 22 members of the Arab League, King Hassan of Morocco offered Arab assistance to the broken economies of Eastern Europe.

"For us in the European Economic Community (EEC) it is not a question of choosing between the East and the South," French President Francois Mitterrand said at the closing ceremony.

"Let me tell you quite solemnly that the rapprochement between two Europes which have been separated for too long will not be effected at the expense of the many ties which unite the twelve with their Arab and other neighbours," he added.

The summit was held on the day that

Romanian dictator Nicolae Ceausescu was deposed in a popular uprising marked by heavy loss of life.

Hassan said the entire world had to move wisely and fast to respond to the changes in Eastern Europe which he called a "U-turn in modern history."

"Europe's ideological borders are changing fast even if its geographical frontiers are the same as before."

"All efforts (for East Europe) on the socio-economic level cannot be shouldered by West European countries alone... why don't we participate with our energies, our riches?" he asked.

The resumption of an Euro-Arab dialogue, six years after it stalled over the Middle East conflict and other political divisions, was one of Mitterrand's priorities during his chairmanship of the EEC.

But his six-month tenure, ending on Dec

31, has coincided with the total transformation of the post-war order in Europe and Mitterrand had to convince sceptical EEC members such as Britain about the usefulness of the conference.

Nevertheless the gathering attracted a full turnout of the 12 EEC foreign ministers and their Arab counterparts.

They were set because of alleged Syrian and Libyan involvement in political violence in Western Europe, but France said the EEC would review the measures.

The main practical outcome of the conference was an agreement to formalise annual meetings between three foreign ministers from each side.

The communiqué approved the reports dealing with the restructuring of the dialogue and economic and technical co-operation between the two parties and passed a resolution under which a ministerial troika from the EEC and the Arab

League states would meet once a year alternating between a European and Arab state.

The troikas are assigned to review political issues of joint concern and encourage co-operation in the economic, technical, cultural and social co-operation as well as discussing conflicting issues before making individual decisions that might harm one of the parties.

The initiative to call for a full ministerial conference as the need arises and the supervision and financing of committees for economic, technical, social and cultural co-operation are among other assignments given to the troikas.

The communiqué which gives priority to cultural and social aspects approved a number of social, investment and economic projects such as the assembling on the petrochemical and refinery industry, city planning and urban expansion.

Pakistan violates: Kabul

1,000th protest to UN

ISLAMABAD, Dec 23, (Reuters): Afghanistan reached a milestone in its diplomatic battle with Pakistan today, presenting United Nations observers with its 1,000th note alleging Pakistani involvement in the Afghan war.

The official Afghan news agency Bakhtar said the note listing 11 violations of the Geneva accords was handed to the Kabul office of the United Nations good offices mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan.

It gave no details but under the 1988 accords both governments agreed not to interfere in each other's affairs.

UN observers are supposed to investigate each allegation, but an official said many were impossible to check because the details were too sketchy.

Pakistan routinely denies Afghan claims that it is directly involved in aiding mujahideen rebels fighting to topple the Soviet-backed government of President Najibullah.

Afghan rebel leaders remain based in Pakistan and Pakistani officials privately acknowledge the country is the main conduit for weapons supplies to the rebels from the United States and Arab nations.

Habre inaugurated to 7-year term

NDJAMENA, Chad, Dec 23, (AP): Hissene Habre was formally inaugurated as President of Chad for a seven-year term yesterday after winning 99.94 per cent to the vote in a nation-wide referendum Dec 10 where he was the only candidate.

The constitution approved Dec 10 provides for Habre to be eligible to succeed to two further seven-year presidential terms. He came to power when his forces captured Ndjamena in 1982 and has been ruling by decree ever since.

Habre said in a speech that the new constitution "institutionalised the rule of law and deepened the meaning of democracy" in the landlocked African country.

It allowed all Chadians to take part fully in the affairs of state "with no restraint other than the law," he said.

Calls for Arab unity ridiculous

ABU DHABI, Dec 23, (Reuters): A senior Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) official was quoted today as saying that repeated calls for a united Arab nation were ridiculous.

"Previous experiences of attempts at Arab unity make present calls for unity look ridiculous and they annoy the average Arab citizen," Assistant Secretary-General for political affairs, Said Bin Hashel Al Maskari, said.

Maskari, quoted by the United Arab Emirates paper Al Khaleej, said the six-nation GCC was based upon mutual co-operation with no loss of sovereignty.

Attempts in the 1950s and 1960s to merge Arab states were a romantic and unrealistic notion, he said.



Mitterrand (right) listens to King Hassan during their joint press conference at the Elysee Palace at the close of the Euro-Arab meeting. (Reuters wirephoto)

EVENTS



Kapilku's computer course continues

PARTICIPANTS of Kapilku's Computer Course, a self-improvement course project of the Association of Filipinos in Kuwait (Kapilku) were taught the mechanics of Lotus 1.2.3.

Arlene and Joel Bonacillo demonstrated the importance of the programme, its composition, graphs and the type of commands used in Lotus.

Joel, a computer engineer at Kay & Associates encouraged the students to participate in the application of the programme using computers.

Arlene, a computer programmer lectured the basic technique of the commands.

Jonathan A. Gonzales, a Financial Accountant at Holiday Inn Hotel will discuss. Symphony programming and will cover the basic commands and spreadsheets, next Friday Jonathan will also demonstrate the proper presentation of an accounting worksheet, budget and now to store accounting records.

The last subject to be



Kapilku's students in the computer course.

explained to the participants will be Data Base III Plus. Teacher being Rudy Ocampo, Manager of Echo Electronics.

Kapilku President Manny Inserto announced that the awarding of the Certificate of

Attendance will be on January 5, 1990 at Kabayan Restaurant after the class.

The chairman of the course is Bada Borja, Kapilku's auditor and Sarah Macarimbang, Vice-President for Social and Cultural

Affairs was the over-all co-ordinator.

The computer course is organized by The Association of Filipinos in Kuwait (Kapilku) and sponsored by Kabayan Restaurant.

CINEMA

Al Andalus
Licence to Kill

Salmiyah
Hall Booked

Al Hamra
Arabic film

Drive-in
Arabic film

Al Firdous
Main Aazad Hoon

Fahsheel
Garibon Ka Daata

Al Jahra
Arabic film

Granada
Dharam Shatru

Sulaibikhat
Big

Jleeb
Puthiya Karukkal

Ahmadi Drive-in
One Man Force



The Pied Piper

The English School — Fahsheel held their annual Junior concert 'The Pied Piper' at the school theatre. Present were members of the Diplomatic Corps: Abdullah Al Muhanna, Director of the Private Education Department; Sulaiman Al Rawdan, Technical Inspector and other distinguished guests and parents.

Season's greetings

By Manny Inserto
Kapilku president

ON behalf of Kapilku officers and members, I take pleasure in wishing my beloved Kababayan friends, Filipino people and residents of Kuwait on the occasion of this festive season, a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous new year.

It was a fruitful twelve months in which Kapilku served the Filipino community as to get closer to one another and be united by introducing various projects.

Kapilku is continually striving to serve the interest of Filipinos from all walks of life — from those in humble occupations to

those more fortunate to be employed in the higher echelons.

Kapilku's objectives have always been community service and welfare and will continue to be: to provide meaningful programmes, like the ongoing self-improvement in computer course.

The other Kapilku programmes which help our members ease their loneliness and homesickness are Bayanihan (get together), Palarong Filipino, Kapilku Night, the Philippine Community Day and the Hiyas ng Pilipinas — Kuwait.

But there is also a less glamorous front to Kapilku — that of quietly providing a helping hand to the less fortunate members of our community —

through fund raising, counselling and care.

Our association needs more able members to come forward and help in any way what-so-ever to alleviate the plight of our Kababayan in distress.

I should like to take this opportunity to express our sincerest thanks to our Ambassador Dr. Maugay Mohd Tamano and his lovely wife Norie Tamano for their untiring and selfless efforts in supporting all the community projects of the association. To our sponsors, supporters and friends who extended their full co-operation to make all our projects a successful one.

Lastly, we wish you all the best for the coming year.

Mabuhay ang Filipino.



Manny

WHAT'S ON

ARTS

Tribal Rugs & Oriental Prints
THE Sultan Gallery will be holding a Tribal Rugs and Oriental Prints exhibition starting Saturday Dec 23 until Jan 15. On Saturday, the Gallery will be open from 5.00 pm to 8.00 pm. Else, it will be open from 9.30 am to 12.30 noon and 5.00 pm to 8.00 pm. For more information contact: 2421951.

Seminar
There will be a seminar at the DAA on "Arabic & European Art in the Light of Zodiacal Symbolism" December 10, 1989 - January 10, 1990. Sunday and Tuesday 11.00 - 12.30 am. Anyone wishing to register for this seminar may do so at the DAA during museum hours.

SOCIAL

Musical Variety
PAKISTAN Arts Circle will hold a musical variety programme on the eve of the "New Year" on Sunday, the 31st Dec, 1989 at Sr. Vice-President's residence. Zahid Saeed Khan, Ambassador of Pakistan will preside. The programme includes competition of singers, presentation of a leading poet of Kuwait, bingo and "Bait-Baazi" of ladies, as well as many other attractive features. Families interested are welcome but they should collect the invitation cards. Honorary member families are requested to kindly collect their invitation cards from the Secretary, Public Relations, Hamid Mahmood: 4716258 as soon as possible.

Kuwait Cultural Centre
NEW courses at the cultural centre: yoga healing classes, two sessions in the evenings on Tuesdays and Thursdays; jujitsu (martial arts), Saturday and Mondays, pm; Chinese cooking classes, Saturdays, 9-11 am. For details call 5624393.

"Nirjhar"
A CULTURAL function under the auspices of "Nirjhar Sangskritik Goshthi" will be held at Bangladesh embassy premises on 29th December, (Friday).

Mohsin Ali Khan, the political Advisor and Charge d'Affaires of Bangladesh embassy will be the chief guest.

All Bangladeshis have been requested to kindly procure the invitation card in order to attend the function. For details please contact the Tele. Nos. Mahe Alam - 4315962; Manan - 4317223; Salam - 4330416.

Christmastide 1989
A series of Holy functions will take place at the Holy Family Cathedral starting Dec 24. On this date, there will be Holy Masses from 7.00 am to 9.00 pm in English and Konkani. Procession and Pontifical High Mass will be at 11.00 pm. On Dec 25 the Holy Masses will start from 7.00 am to 7.00 pm in five different languages. On Dec 31 the Holy Masses will start at 7.00 am to 11 pm in English and Konkani and on New Year's, they will start from 7.00 am to 7.00 pm, again in five different languages. For more information contact 2434637.

Goodbye 1989
SUPER Top Ranks present the most fabulous show of the year: Goodbye 1989. The programme includes glamorous dance performances from Hindi, English, Punjabi and Arabic. Popular dance "Ghazal-Neh-Kiya-Ha-Ishara" from Tridev by Valencia Rose Bud Tanaka and Group and the most popular pop band Ajeen, will give performances, especially for the Arab audience. The show will be on December 28 from 4 pm onwards. All are welcome at the Doha Entertainment City's International Theatre. Entry to city is free. For more info: Kalid Fawzi on 4879453, Tennaakoon on 4319864 and Valencia Rose Bud 5615291.

IAC Children's Competition
THE dates of finals of the Children's Competition will take place at IAC Funitees on 13th, 14th, 15th, 27th and 28th December '89 and 18th January '90 respectively. For more details contact Indian Schools.

Annual Day celebration
MAHARASHTRA Mandal, Kuwait is celebrating its first annual day on 29th Dec '89 Friday, with variety entertainment programme from 1000 to 1500 hrs at the Indian Embassy Hall.

Members and guests are requested to contact Tel. Nos. 5725176 or 2424242 or 3921372 for entry passes.

Kuwait Welsh Society
A CHRISTMAS party will be held on December 28, 1989 at 8 pm. For details ring 3721383 or 3713467.

Kalpak's drama competition
Kerala Arts and Literature Promoting Association of Kuwait (Kalpak) is organising a Malayalam drama competition on 8th and 9th of February 1990.

One act plays of 40 minutes duration will only be considered for the competition. Prizes will be awarded for best drama, best script (only for amateur creations from Kuwait) best direction. Stage setting, best actor (Prem Nazir award) best actress & best child artist, from the selected entries.

Interested parties may send their applications along with a copy of the script to Varghese Parayadi, P.O. Box 47, 13001 Safat, Kuwait.

For more details pls contact Varghese 5635481, Kurien 5658072 or Balakrishnan 4316737.

Saaz Aur Aawaz
FEB 2: Saaz Aur Aawaz, one of the leading Indian musical groups of Kuwait present their fourth musical programme entitled Bhule Bisle Geet. The show includes Hindi film songs at the Indian Arts Circle. Funitees on February 2, 1990. Passes will be available shortly.

Pongal celebrations
BHARATHI Kalai Mandram is organising Pongal Celebrations on 29th December in Indian Arts Circle auditorium with a variety of entertainments for children and adults from 5 to 8.30 pm. All are welcome. For details and entry passes please contact 3716976, 3718935, 5631230 or 5627718.

Christmas 1989 N.E.C.K.

THE National Evangelical Church of Kuwait (English language) will have the following Christmas function:

Dec 24: Sunday Worship Service 6.00 - 7.30 pm. Celebration in the Mansour Courtyard following the Service 8.00 - 10 pm.

Candlelight Carol Sing around the fire and Buffet Cook Out. (Bring your own food to cook and your own Candle in a Glass Windshield).

Christmas Eve N.E.C.K. Communion Service 10.30 pm - 12.00 pm.

Dec 25 Christmas Day Service 9.00 - 10.30 am.

Dec 31 The Watchnight Service 11.00 pm - 12.30 am. For more info phone: 5627568.

Vishal Musical Group
VISHAL Musical Group is conducting their 2nd musical programme on Friday, January 5 at 6.00 pm at Funitees Indian Arts Circle. The programme contains the most popular old and new hit songs from Hindi films. Also classical and fast dances by young talented artists. Centres for distribution of passes will be announced shortly.

People's Trust Club
DEC 29: People's Trust Club welcomes you to a day of your life at Ramada Al Salam (Marriott) Hotel, New Ballroom from 10.30 am onwards. Nibble feet, hungry palate, perfect blend of music and style. A get-together with buffet. Featuring Stepping Stones, Top Ranks will be novelties and surprises galore.

SPORTS

At the Holiday Inn Health Club and Recreation Centre

SWIMMING lessons available all year round with qualified swimming instructors. Open to non members. Mon-Tues-Wed 3.30 to 5.30, beginners-improvers-adults. Mixed keep fit classes, Wed 5-6, Thurs 6-7, Fri 12-1.00 and 1-2.00, Sat 5-6.00. Ladies keep fit, Mon 5-6, Tues 5-6, Fri 5-6 and Sun 5.30-6.30. Martial arts w/ black belt instructor Mon-Wed 6-7 Taekwondo Sat-Mon, 7-8 Thurs 5-6. Bowling alley available for private company and community tournaments. Five squash courts. Squash handicaps every Sunday start 6 pm — all standards, open to non-members. Squash coaching available from professional coach everyday, from 1 pm. Massage for men and women. Gym facilities for men and women. Tennis courts — coaching available. Plus lots more. Phone for further details: Recreation Manager, 4742000 ext 6788 Julie Dent or 6700 recreation.

Konkani Drama
THE New Goans Overseas Association are pleased to announce Menino De Bandar's "Sonsarant Astana Diat" a Konkani play which will be held in the Indian Arts Circle (Funitees) on the 16th of February 1990. The cast all from Goa includes M. Boyer, C. D'Silva, Betty Naz, Junior Rod, Rosario Dias. Plans open in early January.

IAC table tennis
THE IAC table tennis tournament from Dec 29 till Jan 5. All members, their families and guests interested in participating please call IAC (Tel. 3904817) after 7 pm, or Jagdish at Tel. 2433552, or Sharma at Tel. 2644863 for entry passes and details.

Boys Own Club tie-breaker tournament
BOY'S Own Club are happy to announce that entries are open for the tie-breaker football festival to be held on 29/12/89, at Al Sour Ground.

Teams wishing to enter this football festival can contact Joe D'Souza on 4813622/25 ext. 147.

● All entries for the What's On column can be sent by telex (22332) to Events Section or hand delivered daily, except Thursday, from 12 noon to 4 pm, at the Arab Times Office in Shuwaikh. Photographs will also be considered for publication. Photographs in entries will not be accepted.

PRAYERS

| | |
|---------|---------|
| Fajr | 5.15 am |
| Zohr | 11.47 |
| Asr | 2.37 pm |
| Maghreb | 4.56 |
| Isha | 6.18 |

TELEVISION PROGRAMME

KTV 1

MORNING PERIOD

9.30 Opening and Holy Quran
9.45 Sabah Al Kher: news and variety
9.50 Cartoon serial
10.05 Magazine D'Actualite (repetition)
10.15 Watadour Al Dawa: Arabic serial (part 7)
11.15 Sabah Al Kher, news and variety
11.30 That's Incredible: variety programme
12.30 News summary
12.35 Holy Quran and closedown

EVENING PERIOD

4.00 Opening and Holy Quran
4.15 The World via Satellite (repetition)
4.45 Breen: Cartoon serial
5.15 Cartoons
5.45 Night chemists, airlines and official advertisements
6.00 Al Bahr La Yabta Al Shams: Arabic serial (part 7)
7.15 Diwanat Shura Al Nabat: Local programme
8.00 Local cultural programme, presented by Yousif Al Sultan and prepared by Kuwait Chemists Society
8.30 Good Evening and local news
9.00 News in Arabic
9.45 Al Manzel Al Khafi: Arabic serial (part 12)
10.30 Aber Sabee: Beduin serial, starring Malek Sukar, Rasheed Assaf, Iman Khader
11.45 News summary
11.50 The World Today via Satellite
12.15 Holy Quran and closedown

KTV 2

6.00 Opening announcement & Holy Quran
6.10 The New Three Stooges: A cartoon series for children
6.30 Munsters Today: "Not so Great". A dispute arises between Herman and Vladimir.
7.00 The Great Rift "Footprint in the Valley"
8.00 News in English
8.30 Bergerac: "Horse Guests". A group of terrorists takes a number of business men as hostages in the island. Jim has to save them and arrest the terrorists....
9.30 Sea Power "Submarine". The development of submarines and a look at technological advancement introduced on submarines.... their role in chasing enemy's ships and other submarines.... You can't take it with You. While Morman's Son-in-Law is thinking of the new ideas he received from his father-in-law he forgets to keep money with him and is kept locked inside the telephone kiosk.
10.00 "Bluegrass" Bessie: Fueled by her passion to build an empire of world-class through bred race horses, Mande Sage Breen an ambitious young woman, returns to Kentucky roots in the heart of the Bluegrass country....
12.00 News in Brief
12.15 Magazine D'Actualite.



General managers taken for a ride!

The General Manager of Le Meridien Kuwait, Keaton Woods, recently met with the General Manager of the Entertainment City, Tariq A. Al Zaidan. They took time out to go on one of the rides at Entertainment City while discussing co-operation in promoting tourism to Kuwait. The attractive packages they agreed to offer visitors to Kuwait will be announced shortly. Photo shows (clockwise): Tariq A. Al Zaidan, Keaton S. Woods, Yousif Al Ghabra, Public Relations Manager of Le Meridien Kuwait and Anwar J. Bu Rahmah, Operation and Marketing Manager of Entertainment City.



KTV2, 10.30 pm Bluegrass.

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Alshall weekly market review

Signs of decline continue as Kuwait trade volume drops

ALSHALL index for Kuwaiti shareholding companies recorded on Wednesday Dec 20, 1989 an average of 40.58 points with a decrease of 0.42 point — 1.02 per cent — from last week's average of Wednesday Dec 13, 1989. The Alshall index for non-Kuwaiti shareholding companies reached 66.33 with an increase of 1.49 point — 2.30 per cent — for the same period, according to Alshall weekly market report.

The trading volume for Kuwaiti shares reached 30.1 per cent million shares at a daily average of 6.02 million shares with a decrease of 22 per cent from the previous week's daily average of 7.7 million shares.

Non-Kuwaiti traded shares reached 13.0 million shares at a daily average of 2.6 million shares with an increase of 186 per cent over last week's daily average of 0.91 million shares.

The value of Kuwaiti traded shares was KD10.45 million at a daily average of KD2.09 million, an increase of 2.5 per cent over last week's daily average of KD2.04 million. The value of non-Kuwaiti traded shares was KD0.675 million at a daily average of KD0.135 million, an increase of 275 per cent over last week's daily average of KD0.936 million.

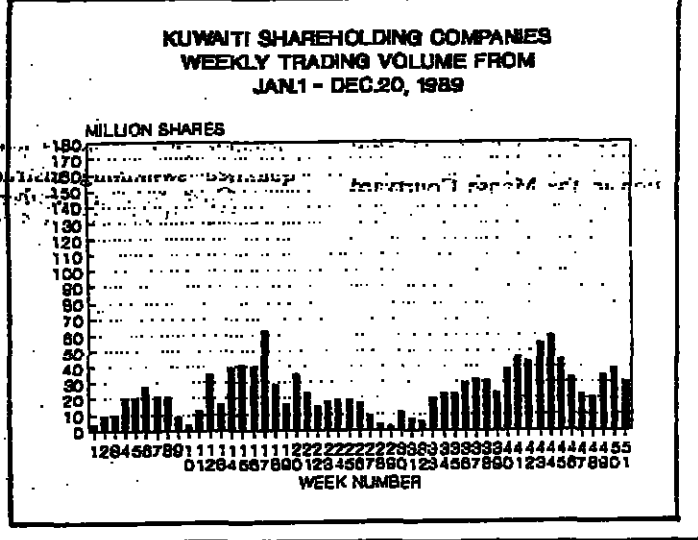
For the Kuwaiti shares market, the banking sector came first at 70 per cent of total trading against 49 per cent last week. The Gulf Bank had the lead at 41 per cent followed by The Commercial Bank at 28 per cent and The National Bank of Kuwait at 11 per cent.

The investment sector came second at 22 per cent in which Kuwait Investment Projects Company had the lead at 55 per cent followed by Kuwait Investment Company at 20 per cent and Coast Investment and Development Company at 15 per cent. The services sector came third at 3.4 per cent in which Mobile Telephone System Company had the lead at 88 per cent followed by Public Warehousing Company, Kuwait Commercial Markets Company and Kuwait Computer Company at 4 per cent each. As for the non-Kuwaiti shares market, Bahrain and Middle East Bank had the lead at 53 per cent followed by Bahrain International Bank at 37 per cent and Umm Al Quain Cement Company at 5 per cent.

| | | | |
|--------------------|--------|--------|-------|
| Comm. Facilities | 148.50 | 151.25 | -2.75 |
| National Inv. | 62.75 | 58.82 | 3.92 |
| KI Inv. Proj. | 93.26 | 94.38 | -1.12 |
| Coast Inv. & Dev. | 98.82 | 101.18 | -2.35 |
| Sector Index | 33.82 | 33.84 | -0.02 |
| Ins. Sector | | | |
| KI Ins. Co. | 37.67 | 37.67 | — |
| Gulf Ins. Co. | 23.46 | 23.46 | — |
| Al Ahlia Ins. | 52.87 | 51.86 | 1.02 |
| Warba Ins. Co. | 54.12 | 54.12 | — |
| Sector Index | 37.29 | 37.13 | 0.16 |
| Real Est. Sec. | | | |
| KI Real Est. | 16.06 | 16.31 | -0.25 |
| Utd. Realty | 5.16 | 5.29 | -0.12 |
| Nat. Real Est. | 37.43 | 37.43 | — |
| Pearl of Kt. | 69.05 | 71.43 | -2.38 |
| Sector Index | 16.35 | 16.62 | -0.27 |
| Ind. Sector | | | |
| KI Cmt. Co. | 10.22 | 10.22 | — |
| Ref. Ind. | 84.55 | 84.55 | — |
| Gulf Cables | 116.52 | 116.52 | — |
| KI Pharm. | 60.44 | 62.22 | -1.78 |
| Sector Index | 29.28 | 29.37 | -0.08 |
| Services Sector | | | |
| KI Cmptr. Co. | 149.04 | 157.68 | -8.64 |
| KI Cinema Co. | 9.51 | 9.51 | — |
| Pub. Whousg Co. | 65.66 | 66.67 | -1.01 |
| KI Comm. M. Co. | 34.07 | 34.53 | -0.46 |
| M. Tele. Syst. | 347.62 | 352.38 | -4.76 |
| Sector Index | 60.74 | 61.64 | -0.90 |
| Food Sector | | | |
| L. Trad. & Transp. | 27.26 | 25.22 | 2.03 |
| Utd Fisheries | 3.97 | 11.05 | -7.08 |
| Kt. Utd Poultry | 85.08 | 74.07 | 11.00 |
| Kt. Food Co. | 74.71 | 74.71 | — |
| Sector Index | 33.73 | 34.21 | -0.48 |
| Overall Index | 40.58 | 41.00 | -0.42 |

| | | | |
|--|----------|----------|--------|
| Non-Kuwaiti shareholding companies index | Wed. | Wed. | Change |
| | 20/12/89 | 13/12/89 | points |
| First G. Bk. | 223.68 | 223.68 | — |
| Bah. Intl. Bk. | 88.28 | 86.90 | 1.38 |
| Bah. M.E. Bk. | 94.92 | 90.17 | 4.75 |
| A. Gen. Inv. (Shua) | 43.94 | 43.18 | 0.76 |
| Umm Al Q. Cmt. | 17.62 | 17.62 | — |
| G. Med. Projs. | 12.12 | 12.12 | — |
| Total Index | 66.33 | 64.84 | 1.49 |

—Base period 31/12/1983.
—All the companies listed by the Stock Exchange under non-Kuwaiti companies are included.



| | | | |
|-------------------------------------|----------|----------|--------|
| Kuwait shareholding companies index | Wed. | Wed. | Change |
| | 20/12/89 | 13/12/89 | points |
| Banking Sector | | | |
| The National Bk. | 124.96 | 126.11 | -1.15 |
| The Gulf Bk. | 32.81 | 33.25 | -0.44 |
| The Comm. Bk. | 25.03 | 25.03 | — |
| Al Ahli Bk. | 36.84 | 37.34 | -0.50 |
| Bk of Kt & ME | 31.44 | 32.84 | -1.41 |
| Kuwait R. Est. Bk. | 30.86 | 31.29 | -0.43 |
| Burgan Bk. | 27.58 | 27.58 | — |
| Kt Finance House | 84.04 | 85.69 | -1.65 |
| Sector Index | 50.39 | 51.01 | -0.62 |
| Inv. Sector | | | |
| Kuwait Inv. Co. | 10.10 | 9.92 | 0.18 |
| Kt. Int. Inv. Co. | 8.76 | 8.93 | -0.17 |
| IFA | 29.34 | 29.34 | — |

Ford to offer \$1.55b in debt securities

WASHINGTON, Dec 23, (AP): Ford Motor Co. intends to sell \$1.55 billion in debt securities to pay for its recent acquisition of Associates, the nation's third-largest independent finance company, according to documents filed yesterday.

In a registration statement filed with the US Securities and Exchange Commission, Ford said it is seeking to issue the debt securities through Ford Holdings Inc., a subsidiary formed in September to acquire Associates.

The debt securities will be sold "to reduce short-term debt, including borrowings to fund the acquisition of Associates," according to the registration statement.

Ford acquired Dallas-based Associates First Capital Corp. from Paramount Communications Inc. for \$3.35 billion on Oct 31.

According to the statement, Ford financed the Associates acquisition through \$2.25 billion in loans and the issuance of \$800 million in flexible rate auction preferred stock.

Joint venture agreement

H.J. HEINZ, the leading multinational producer of quality food products has signed a joint venture with Kuwait Food Company (Americana), the leader and pioneer of the fast food industry and the largest consumer food producer in the Arab world to produce tomato concentrate and manufacture the famous tomato ketchup and other food products in Egypt.

This project will supply all Arab states with the Heinz ketchup and contribute to the Egyptian economy by producing local tomato concentrate from local grown tomatoes, and reduce imports of concentrate from the international market.

Heating oil jumps

NEW YORK, Dec 23, (UPI): US heating oil jumped nearly 2 cents a gallon yesterday on fears that the freezing weather heading for the US Gulf Coast region would create shortages, bringing its gain for the week to more than 11 cents a gallon.

The water-cooling pipes of refineries in the normally warm Gulf area are not insulated like those in the North, and the below-freezing temperatures could conceivably shut them down and interrupt shipments, analysts say.

"That's why the market is rallying. Supplies are short enough as it is," said Andrew Lebow of E.D.F. Man International Futures Inc. in New York.

The same fears had driven prices up 4 cents a gallon Thursday.

Heating oil contracts for January delivery finished Friday on the New York Mercantile Exchange at \$1.74 cents a gallon, a new four-year high and a gain of 1.93 cents on the day and 11.32 on the week.

The Merc heating oil prices has risen 35.5 per cent in the last three weeks.

Lebow said the Friday market was very volatile with heating oil prices hitting a high on the day of 85 cents a gallon before traders began to take profits on previous buys at lower prices.

Volume was a heavy 43,959 estimated contracts, more than double the 21,419 daily average of a trading day.

EgyptAir signs contract

EGYPTAIR, the national airline of Egypt, and International Aero Engines have signed a contract for the support and maintenance of V2500 engines which will power the airline's new fleet of Airbus A320 aircraft.

Five spare engines will be delivered to EgyptAir. IAE will provide assistance to train the airline's personnel and maintain the V2500 engine. In addition, IAE will deliver spare parts, equipment and tooling.

EgyptAir selected the advanced technology V2500 to power its A320 aircraft in April this year due to its superior performance, operability and ruggedness. The airline has seven aircraft on firm order and two more on option. The value of the engines for the nine aircraft, including the five spares, is approximately \$110 million.

Environmental issues to get boost

THE growing importance of environmental issues and their impact on international business has been recognised by British Airways in the appointment of Dr Hugh Somerville to the newly created position within the airline of Head of the Environment.

Dr Somerville, who will be based at the airline's headquarters in London, has for the past two years been senior adviser on environmental and occupational health affairs with Occidental Petroleum.

"British Airways has a responsibility to the environment and the communities in which it operates," commented Tony Broadfoot, BA Middle East General Manager. "Dr Somerville's appointment recognises this and he will help develop a cohesive environmental strategy and plan airline-wide."

Currency rates

| | Buying | Selling |
|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| US dollar | 0.28235 | 0.2935 |
| Sterling | 0.47433 | 0.47841 |
| DM | 0.17101 | 0.17244 |
| Sv. Fr. | 0.18861 | 0.19028 |
| F. Fr. | 0.08009 | 0.08033 |
| L. Ira. | 0.0002287 | 0.0002297 |
| Jap. Yen | 0.0020465 | 0.0020654 |
| Bah. din. | 0.77546 | 0.07828 |
| UAE Dir. | 0.07550 | 0.07593 |
| S. riyal | 0.07793 | 0.07828 |

Interest Rates

| Period | Rate | Offered |
|----------|--------|---------|
| 1 month | 8-1/4 | 8-1/2 |
| 3 months | 8-1/4 | 8-1/2 |
| 6 months | 8-1/8 | 8-3/8 |
| 1 year | 8-1/16 | 8-3/8 |

Oil and gas projects

Arabs get \$2b in loans

RIYADH, Dec 23, (Reuters): Arab oil producers, working to meet a projected rise in demand, received a total of \$2 billion in loans this year for oil and gas projects, a Saudi-based Arab investment group said yesterday.

The Arab Petroleum Investment Corp (Apicorp) said it contributed some \$230 million of the total, distributed in 14 loans to the 10-member Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries.

Apicorp said in a statement its contribution was the largest annual figure in loans for petroleum and petrochemical projects since it was founded in 1975.

It said the biggest loan of \$400 million went to Qatar to finance the first stage of a \$5 billion project to develop its vast north offshore gas field. Official estimates put total reserves at around 380 trillion cubic feet.

Apicorp has been appointed manager of the loan, signed earlier this month by 60-odd banks after a nine-month delay.

It said \$25 million each went to rivals Iraq and Syria, while Libya received a loan of \$7 million.

Arab producers, confident they will be the main beneficiaries of a surge in demand for oil in the 1990s, are pressing ahead with multi-billion plans expected to raise their output capacity by around seven million barrels a day.

Together, they own about two-thirds of the world's proven reserves of nearly 950 billion barrels.

Meanwhile an Egyptian firm is seeking compensation of \$100 million following the ramming of an oil platform by a Philippine ship two weeks ago.

A spokesman for the Gulf of Suez Petroleum Company (Gupco) said yesterday the figure was an initial claim and the final amount had still to be decided.

Production of 6,000 barrels per day was stopped after the bulk carrier Panay Sampaguita rammed the Sedki oilfield platform in the Gulf of Suez.

The spokesman said his company was blocking oil wells before moving the wrecked platform and would then probably drill a replacement well.

Captain Vicente Mejia Abanaz is being detained in prison and his ship is held at the port of Suez, the Philippine embassy said.

The captain blamed the accident on heavy down fog obscuring the platform lights. A Gupco official said both weather and visibility were fine at the time of the accident.

3-year GCC moratorium on import of foreign goods

MUSCAT, Dec 23, (Oman): Abdullah Bishara, secretary general of the Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC), stated yesterday that the GCC leaders had decided to place a three-year customs duty moratorium on goods imported by member states.

The GCC has been trying to negotiate a "fair and balanced" customs agreement with the European Economic Community (EEC) for some years now. While GCC duties generally range between four and 20 per cent, EEC duties, in many cases, especially where Gulf petrochemicals are concerned, have been seen as "high and discriminatory."

Speaking at a press conference held Thursday night after the GCC summit, Bishara stressed that "a unified rate is desirable to enable the council to take appropriate measures when negotiating with major partners on economic fields."

On GCC-EEC negotiations, Bishara disclosed that discussions would be expanded in the next three years and would focus on a range of joint projects.

"The GCC will hold talks with the EEC in March 1990 in Muscat at the foreign ministers' level for the first time in the history of the two groups' relations," the secretary general stated.

He added that issues to be discussed would include possible agreements on banking, insurance, real estate and currencies.

He was of the view that GCC states should accept a unified customs tariff for foreign goods to facilitate the expansion of exchanges with other trade partners such as Japan, with which the GCC is expected to hold talks in March.

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| Interest Rates | 6 |
| Loan Balance Enquiry | 7 |
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Wall Street Watch

A tale of two blue chips

NEW YORK, Dec. 23. (AP): One blue-chip stock multiplied your money to nearly 10 times its former value. Another turned your dollar into less than a dime.

That, in microcosm, was the story of the 1980s on Wall Street — a decade in which many fortunes were made, and more than a few were lost, in a roaring bull market.

To pick the biggest winner among the 30 stocks that now make up the Dow Jones industrial average, you had to ignore a gathering storm over the tobacco industry.

The company in question was Philip Morris, whose shares increased almost 850 per cent in value from the beginning of the '80s through mid-December, according to calculations by William Lefevre at the investment firm of Advest Inc. adjusted for splits. Philip Morris stock soared from \$4.50 to \$440-plus.

Philip Morris, widely known as the producer of Marlboro and several other cigarette brands, began a diversification programme many years ago with Miller Brewing Co.

In the '80s it claimed the status of

world's largest manufacturer of consumer products with the acquisitions of General Foods and Kraft Inc., gaining such familiar product lines as Maxwell House coffee and post cereals.

Meanwhile, it strengthened its hold as the dominant force in the tobacco industry.

At the other end of the standings, Navistar International was the biggest loser among the Dow 30, falling from \$39.12 at the start of the '80s to less than \$4 recently.

Navistar, known a decade ago as International Harvester, left the farm- and construction-machinery businesses to concentrate on making trucks and diesel-powered equipment. It suffered through a seven-year spell of losses before recently returning to profitability.

Among the winners, Philip Morris wasn't alone in benefiting from the ravenous consumer appetites of the '80s.

Close behind it in the Dow performance ranking stood McDonald's Corp., up nearly 700 per cent; Coca-Cola, up nearly 600 per cent; and Merck, the health care

giant, up more than 500 per cent.

Like Navistar, Bethlehem Steel, which was down more than 20 per cent, and International Business Machines, up less than 50 per cent, reflected the many problems of the economy's industrial sector.

What did all this mean for a diversified portfolio of stocks? Once the big winner and losers are balanced out, the Dow Jones industrial average has more than tripled. "All in all, not a bad 10 years," Lefevre observed.

In the past week, the average suffered something of a setback, beset by fears that softening real estate markets might increase the odds of a recession in 1990. It closed Friday at 2,711.39, down 28.16 from the week before.

The New York Stock Exchange composite index dropped 1.50 to 191.95; the Nasdaq composite index for the over-the-counter market rose .73 to 444.57, and the American Stock Exchange market value index was down 1.50 to 191.95.

Volume on the Big Board averaged 168.70 million shares a day, against 185.54 million the week before.

Just how the experience of the '80s might translate into good decisions for the '90s remains to be seen.

Some say the new decade, like the old one, may begin with a recession, especially since the great prosperity of the past several years has left a lot of debts to be paid.

Others contend that the pessimists and the sceptics, who missed many an opportunity in the '80s, may just wind up repeating the same mistake.

Whatever happens, however, people in the stocks and bonds business say the story of the '80s' big winners and losers provides a dramatic demonstration of the virtues of a diversified investment programme.

Anyone who owned \$10,000 each of the best and worst blue chips through the '80s would have an \$80,000-plus Philip Morris profit as consolation, and then some, for a \$9,000 Navistar loss.

Malaysian minister in Kuwait talks

KUWAIT, Dec. 23. (Kuna): Kuwait's Finance Minister Mohammad Al Khorafi today met with Malaysian Finance Minister Daim Zainuddin at Kuwait International Airport.

The Malaysian minister was on his way to Europe and discussed with Khorafi the issues of mutual interests, especially latest developments in the economic relations and the joint ventures between the two countries.

They also discussed preparations to sign an agreement on preventing double taxation.

Meanwhile, Malaysian traders secured spot orders amounting to \$6.30 million and appointed 12 local agents during last month's trade promotions in Kuwait, Dubai and Jeddah.

In addition, \$13.2 million worth of sales are being negotiated between Malaysian traders and prospective buyers in the Gulf states. Trade and Industry Minister Rafidah Aziz said.

The trade promotions to Kuwait, Dubai and Jeddah were organised by the Malaysian Export Promotion Centre (Mepco).

The week in business

US inflation still a threat

Despite a cooling economy

NEW YORK, Dec. 23. (UPI): The Federal Reserve finally came through with the Christmas credit easing everyone had been waiting for since Thanksgiving, but markets thought the 1/4-point cut in the nation's key interest rate didn't even make much of a stocking stuffer given the poor economic outlook.

The ailing stock market barely responded to the Fed's move, but the Dow Jones industrial average began the week with a 43-point decline on the Dow Jones industrial average because of jitter about real estate. Financial issues felt on fears interest rates might not come down soon enough. Malaise spread in the market.

Nervousness about real estate loans started the week before when the Bank of New England said it would boost reserves for bad real estate loans by 700 million. The disclosure sparked fears that the problems may be more widespread and their effects may be felt throughout the economy.

The market continued to fall through Wednesday, despite first news of the Fed easing which was begun that day. Even on Thursday, as the lowering of the key Fed funds rate from around 8 1/2 to 8 1/4 was solidly confirmed, the Dow Jones average moved up just 3.20 points to 2691.13.

Analysts said the market was not satisfied with the 1/4-point drop in the funds rate, which banks charge each other for short-term loans, and looked for another downward interest step. Banks, too, awaited another downwards tick before lowering the prime rate to 10 per cent from 10 1/2 per cent.

Economic news continued to have a mostly negative cast. The US government reported consumer prices up 0.4 per cent in November, indicating that inflation is still a threat despite a cooling economy. Evidence of the latter came in the form of November housing starts off 4.7 per cent.

But there were signs manufacturing might have ridden out the worst of what is regarded by many as a near-recession. Manufacturers have slowed production and kept inventories at low levels, which means that they may be able to spring back in 1990 without too many layoffs or shutdowns.

But the slump in the long-troubled auto industry deepened. Ford Motor Co. said it would shut down 13 of its 17 assembly plants during January, bring to 45 the number of North American auto plants idled. General Motors had already announced it would temporarily shut 28 of its 34 US and Canadian plants, and Chrysler is closing 4 of its 12 facilities temporarily. The big three car manufacturers will be laying off about 120,000 workers, which will boost the jobless rate, already up to 5.4 per cent in November.

In general business news, Marriott Corp. announced a restructuring aimed at reinforcing its core lodging business. The Washington-based company sold its airline-catering business for \$70 million and put its Roy Rogers Restaurant chain up for sale along with other fast-food units. J.W. Marriott Jr., son of the founder, said company will channel its resources towards hotels, contract services and travel-related food outlets.

Reader's Digest, which in its 67-year history has always played its financial cards close to its vest, opened its books at last through the securities and exchange commission filing required to go ahead with a \$50 million stock offering that will finance global expansion.

The Bloomberg's bidding battle narrowed the field of contenders for the Swank Fifth Avenue store and its 16 branches to a half-dozen, among them the Manhattan real estate tycoon Donald Trump. The towering ego faces JMB Realty Corp., the Tokyo department store and others in competition to purchase the store from debt-troubled Campeau Corp. of Canada. Pressure mounted on Campeau as Leslie Fay, a major apparel supplier, halted shipments.

The South Korean government awarded McDonnell Douglas a \$3 billion contract to help the Asian nation develop its aerospace industry and build a jet fighter, opting for McDonnell Douglas' F/A-18 fighter over General Dynamics' F-16 plane. The whole deal, including outright purchase, assembly and manufacture in South Korea, involves 120 aircraft. But the package could face tough resistance in the US Congress, which thinks South Korea could become a competitor with US industries some day.

Eastern Airlines announced that it expected to post a \$250 million loss for the last quarter of 1989 and an estimated loss of \$820 million for the year — setting a new and unwanted airline industry record for red ink. Eastern said it will sell off its lucrative Latin American routes.

A cold wave in the northeast drove heating oil prices up by 12 cents in the week as the market was galvanized by fears that low temperatures in the Gulf coast region could shut down refineries.

Orders for US durable goods up

WASHINGTON, Dec. 23. (AP): Orders to US factories for durable goods jumped 5.1 per cent in November, posting the biggest increase in a year and averting the first three-month drop since mid-1986, the government reported yesterday.

The Commerce Department said orders for durable goods — "big-ticket" items expected to last more than three years — increased to a seasonally adjusted \$130.7 billion last month after dropping 0.7 per cent in September.

Durable-goods orders also fell 1.3 per cent in August. Orders had not fallen for three straight months since 1986.

The November gain, the largest since a 7.4 per cent jump in December 1988, was an exception to recent evidence that the US manufacturing sector is in a severe slowdown. Many economists are forecasting a growth rate of 1 per cent or less in the current quarter and some fear the economy's unprecedented seven years of peacetime expansion might end.

Much of the softness has been concentrated in the auto industry, where weak sales have prompted layoffs and production cutbacks.

Iraq buys US wheat again

WASHINGTON, Dec. 23. (UPI): Iraq bought 109,450 metric tons of US wheat, with a value of about \$16.5 million, in its second major wheat purchase in two days, the US Agriculture Department reported yesterday.

The sale was made at subsidized prices through the export enhancement programme. Terms called for the hard red winter wheat to be delivered in February and March.

Three exporters were given bonuses worth \$16.35 a ton for making the sale.

EXCHANGE RATES

| | |
|------------------|---------|
| Indian rupee | 17.450 |
| Sri Lankan rupee | 7.400 |
| Pakistan rupee | 13.830 |
| Bangladesh taka | 9.010 |
| US dollar | 20.340 |
| Pound sterling | 47.750 |
| UAE dirham | 0.7985 |
| Deutsche mark | 17.210 |
| Japanese yen | 0.02070 |

EEC mergers deal hailed as historic step

Regulations to provide security and clarity

BRUSSELS, Dec. 23. (Reuters): In a decision hailed as a major step towards creating a single market, the European Economic Community yesterday agreed common anti-trust rules for vetting a rash of mergers transforming Europe's corporate landscape.

The accord, made possible by last-minute concessions from West Germany and Britain, was sealed at a meeting of EEC internal trade ministers after 16 years of on-off negotiations.

"This has unquestionably been an historic breakthrough in the creation of a single European Economic Community market," competition commissioner Sir Leon Brittan told a news conference.

"In today's world, where mergers are taking place to an increasing extent, when firms both within the EEC and outside are positioning themselves to benefit from the single market, it is essential that the control of those mergers should be in place for the benefit of European industry and the consumer," he said.

French European Affairs Minister Edith Cresson, chairing the meeting, said the regulations would provide security and clarity about competition rules for firms wanting to merge. They will come into force nine months from now.

The new rules will have their greatest impact on big mergers — often trans-frontier link-ups —

of the kind that are becoming commonplace as EEC-based companies join forces to steel themselves for the tougher competition of a barrier-free market.

At present firms wishing to merge may need to seek clearance from anti-trust authorities in several countries at once as well as being vulnerable to action by the EEC's executive commission under the 12-nation Bloc's somewhat imprecise competition law.

The new rules aim to simplify the procedure greatly by giving the EEC Commission responsibility for vetting the biggest mergers and leaving national authorities to decide on the rest.

"As far as industry is concerned we have in effect created,

with the tiniest of exceptions, a "one-stop-shop", Brittan said.

The Brussels commission will step in when the combined world sales of the companies involved totals five billion European currency units (Ecu) (\$5.85 billion) or more, provided:

■ At least two of the firms earn 250 million Ecu (\$293 million) or more of their turnover in the EEC

■ They do not earn more than two-thirds of their turnover in a single member state.

These thresholds will be reviewed in four years' time and can be changed by agreement of a weighted majority of states. Most countries except Britain want it to be lowered then.



Sultan bin Sulayem, Chairman of Jebel Ali Port Corporation and Jebel Ali Free Zone Authority, is shown signing the agreement concluding the order for the Port's third pilot boat. Also shown are (left) Peter Dunlop, MBE, sales executive Halmatic Ltd, and H. Edward Bilkey, executive director Jebel Ali Port Corporation.

Accord signed for new pilot boat

JEBEL Ali Port Corporation has concluded an agreement with Halmatic Ltd for a new 60ft launch that will join the 'Mushid' and 'Helwah' next year as the Port's third pilot boat.

The new boat will be powered by twin Caterpillar 3412TA engines each producing 860 bhp giving a maximum speed of 21 knots.

Sultan Ahmed bin Sulayem,

Chairman, Jebel Ali Port Corporation and Free Zone, describes the new pilot boat as an important investment for the Port.

"The increases in port traffic we are expecting in the next year made it essential that we invest in another pilot boat. The new boat will be a fine addition to our pilotage capabilities."

Captain Ralph Abbott stated: "The hull will be based on that of an Ann-class lifeboat, but the rest of the launch has been designed to the Port's specifications and will be built in the UK under the supervision of Lloyds Register."

Based in Hampshire, England, Halmatic Ltd is a leading manufacturer of glass reinforced plastic boats.

SHIPPING MOVEMENTS

| SHIPS DISCHARGING AT SHUWAIKH PORT AS ON 23/12/89 | | | |
|---|-----------------|-----------------|----------|
| B.No. | Ship Name | Agent | Tel. No. |
| 14 | Ocean Duke | Agac | 4347815 |
| 20 | Azalea | Agac | 4347815 |
| SHIPS EXPECTED AT SHUWAIKH PORT | | | |
| ETA | Ship Name | Agent | Tel. No. |
| 23/12 | Meghpal | Sagar | 2433692 |
| 23/12 | Mallow Everett | ISA | 2441860 |
| 24/12 | Ever Proent | Salmiya | 4745471 |
| 24/12 | San Pablo | Al Rashid | 2422026 |
| SHIPS EXPECTED AT SHUAIBA PORT | | | |
| B. No. | Ship Name | Agent | Tel. No. |
| 02 | Castano | Algh Seafreight | 4745533 |
| 12 | BL Charlotte | RSMS | 2423642 |
| 19 | Stellar Venus | Algh Barwil | 4842988 |
| VSLAT ANCHORAGE | | | |
| SHIPS EXPECTED AT SHUAIBA PORT | | | |
| ETA | Ship Name | Agent | Tel. No. |
| 21/12 | Moscone | M.A. Bahar | 2459891 |
| 22/12 | Al Batrou | RSMS | 2423642 |
| 23/12 | Hange Mette | Algh Barwil | 4842988 |
| 24/12 | Prabhu Gopal | Algh Barwil | 4842988 |
| 22/12 | Y.S. Prosperity | Al Rashid | 2422026 |
| 22/12 | Al Waiyah | UASC | 4843150 |
| 24/12 | Al Waiyah | UASC | 4842988 |
| 25/12 | Anafi | Algh Barwil | 4843150 |
| 28/12 | Far Zuev | RSMS | 2423642 |
| 08/01 | Flag Mersinidi | Algh Seafreight | 4745533 |
| 10/01 | Melita | Algh Seafreight | 4745533 |
| 15/01 | Ood Charity | Agac | 4347815 |

Compiled by: Alghazim Barwil Shipping Co. WLL. Tel: 4842988/4843150 ext. 3829/3846 Fax No. 4845712, TLX 22004 BARWIL.KT.

NOTICE TO SHIPPERS AND FORWARDING AGENTS

The lines named below advise that with effect from Mulbera Voyage 4823 (Due Kuwait 17/1/90) rates of freight for cargoes to New Zealand and Australia have been adjusted.

Please contact your local lines agent for details.

Blue Star Line

Nippon Yusen Kaisha (NYK)

P&O Containers Ltd.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND MANAGEMENT
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ALAHLI BANK OF KUWAIT K.S.C.

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هكذا امت الأصل

Stuffing Xmas stocking Stars need cheers too

HOLLYWOOD. (UPI): A surreptitious peek into Santa's sleigh reveals what some of the stars got, or should have gotten, for Christmas.

Christmas gifts for people who have everything are difficult to come up with, but the effort has to be made. Celebrities need cheer, too.

So, there is a black and white horizontally striped full-length Christmas Dior pantsuit for Zsa Zsa Gabor, and a year's supply of videocassettes for Rob Lowe.

There is a leather-bound copy of Dale Carnegie's 'How to Win Friends and Influence People' for Roseanne Barr, and helmet chest protector and shin guards for John Goodman.

And, for other good — and bad — boys and girls in Hollywood.

Tom Cruise — an Oscar nomination for his performance in 'Born On The Fourth Of July.'

Jeff Bridges — His own baseball diamond.

Jack Nicholson — A Spider-man costume.

Danny DeVito — Kareem Abdul Jabbar's spot with the Lakers.

Tom Selleck — A good script without a baby in the cast.

Paul Newman — Brown contact lenses.

Eddie Murphy — Fort Knox.

The Golden Girls — A night with Bruce Willis, Don Johnson, Richard Gere and Tom Cruise.

Sean Penn — See Roseanne Barr.

Sylvester Stallone — A screenplay without boxing gloves, automatic weapons, grunts.

Jane Fonda and Tom Hayden — tickets to 'The War Of The Roses.'

Meryl Streep — A box-office winner to go along with her Oscars.

Geraldo Rivera — Some enthusiasm.

Woody Allen — A key to Mia Farrow's front door.

John Candy — No candy.

Molly Ringwald — Puberty.

Redd Foxx — A trip to the godwill furniture shop.

Kathleen Turner — A Playboy centerfold layout.

Michael J. Fox — 'Back To The Future XXIV.'

Dallas — An end.

Shirley MacLaine — A clearer channel.

Robert Deniro — A soul-searching interview with Joan Rivers.

Warren Beatty — Sean Penn's diary of his life and times with Madonna.

Clint Eastwood — Twenty minutes with palimony mouthpiece Marvin Mitchelson.

Sandra Locke — Forty minutes with Mitchelson.

The Little Mermaid — Rael Welch's legs.

Tom Hanks — The good guy award for being a good guy.

Arnold Schwarzenegger — See Eddie Murphy.

Mickey Rourke — A bath, shampoo, shave and haircut.

The Los Angeles Raiders — A quarterback.

Marvin Davis — Rhode Island.

Marlon Brando — Delaware.

Shelley Winters — Connecticut.

Morgan Freeman — An Oscar, nomination for 'Driving Miss Daisy.'

Steven Spielberg — See Eddie Murphy.

George Burns — A date with Molly Ringwald.

Columbia Pictures — A thousand copies of 'Japanese Grammar Made Easy.'

Harrison Ford — A map out of Indiana.

Daniel Day-Lewis — An Academy award nomination for 'My Left Foot.'

Patrick Swayze and John Travolta — Bookings at Arthur Murray's.

Ed McMahon — See Eastwood and Locke and Fonda-Hayden.



Choir practice

England's King's College Choir boys practising for their world-wide broadcast. The festival of Nine Lessons and Carols will be sung by the choir on Christmas Eve and it will be broadcast live from King's College in Cambridge as it has been done for

61 years. The tradition of carols from King's goes back to King Henry VI who made provision for six singing men and sixteen singing boys in 1446. (Reuters wirephoto)

Born on the Fourth of July Vietnam vet tells all

NEW YORK. (Reuters): Ron Kovic was an all-American boy from suburban New York who grew up to be a "guns ho" Marine, was paralyzed in Vietnam and returned to become a passionate anti-war activist.

His story is told in a film opening in the United States this week. Called 'Born on the Fourth of July,' it stars Tom Cruise and was directed by Oscar-winning Vietnam veteran Oliver Stone, who also directed 'Platoon.'

"I never thought I'd be saying this but my wound has become a blessing in disguise," the 43-year-old Kovic said. "It's enabled me to reach millions of people with a message of peace and hope."

"My life has been tremendously difficult and painful at times but I have never felt happier. I have never felt stronger. I feel very thankful to be alive, to be Ron Kovic."

The film was supposed to be made in 1987 by producer Martin Bregman with Al Pacino playing the role of Kovic. But last-minute financing difficulties scuttled the project.

"Ron was really caught up in it. He was very excited that his life was being made into a movie," recalled Loretta Smith, a Chicago-based film-maker whose documentary 'Ron Kovic And The American Dream' will be distributed next autumn.

"A few days after Pacino threw him a birthday party, they broke the news to him that production was being halted. Ron was heartbroken. He was really devastated."

Over the course of the next nine years Kovic travelled compulsively. He had no home for much of that time and lived in hotels or in the homes of friends.

A driven activist, Kovic embraced a broad spectrum of left-wing causes, including opposition to nuclear power and American military intervention in Central America.

Bob Muller, founder of the influential Vietnam Veterans of America first coaxed Kovic into actively opposing the Vietnam war in 1969. "There's no denying that Ron made a tremendous contribution to the anti-war

movement by bringing the human cost of the war home to people," Muller said.

One of the most dramatic scenes in the movie depicts Kovic and Muller, who is also a paraplegic, being thrown out of the 1972 Republican national convention in Miami after chanting anti-war slogans during president Richard Nixon's speech accepting his party's nomination for a second term.

The film ends with what had been until now the most triumphant moment in Kovic's life, his speech before the 1976 Democratic national convention in New York, where he was enthusiastically received.

"The movie is going to make Ron Kovic the most celebrated Vietnam veteran in America. I'm very curious to see how he handles the spotlight," said Muller, now director of a project working to restore relations between Washington and Haiti.

"A lot of people go Hollywood when they receive the prominence that Kovic is on the threshold of receiving," observed another Kovic friend, Dave Evans, a Vietnam veteran who works with a group providing medical aid to El Salvador.

"I just hope he doesn't forget those of us who are still out there fighting (for causes)."

In preparing to play the role of Kovic in the film, Cruise, who was born on the third of July, made several wheelchair excursions around Los Angeles with Kovic, including a visit to a hospital for veterans.

Kovic, who wrote the screenplay with Stone, gave his Bronze Star war medal to Cruise as a birthday present during filming in Dallas.

The disabled veteran said that when he watched the completed film for the first time with Cruise and Stone, he wanted to look away from the screen as the scene in which he was wounded was shown.

It was also difficult for Kovic to watch the film's depiction of the night that Kovic and the men in his unit shot a group of Vietnamese civilians, including several children, by mistake. The incident remains with him.

Heart attacks: time can easily make the difference

BOSTON. (UPI): When it comes to heart attacks, time easily can make the difference between life and death.

"The one thing we have learned in the last few years is that with heart attacks, every second is important," said Dr. Scott Sharkey, an assistant professor of medicine at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis.

Victims of heart attacks — the nations No. 1 killer — have a much better chance of surviving if they are treated within one hour of their first symptoms.

The death rate climbs sharply after that. Part of the problem is patients fail to seek help quickly. But a new study shows hospitals also could

do more to speed treatment.

"Delay is the enemy of successful ... therapy for (heart attack)," Sharkey and his colleagues wrote in reporting their results recently in the Journal of the American Medical Association. "We conclude that significant in-hospital delays are likely to occur before a patient receives ... therapy."

To determine what caused delays in patients' treatment, Sharkey and his colleagues examined 236 heart attack patients who sought treatment at four hospitals in the Minneapolis-St. Paul area.

It took 2.6 hours on the average between the time the patients experienced the first symptoms and when they began receiving the recently developed

drug TPA, which stands for tissue plasminogen activator, the researchers found.

The drug has been shown to sharply reduce the death rate among heart attack victims by dissolving blood clots that have blocked the flow of blood.

"Part of the treatment delay is caused by the patient's reluctance to seek medical attention," the researchers said. "Intensive public education may help the patient with chest pain understand the importance of seeking early medical attention."

But the researchers found that while it took about 65 minutes between the time the patient started calling symptoms and when they arrived at the hospital, it took another 81 minutes from that time until

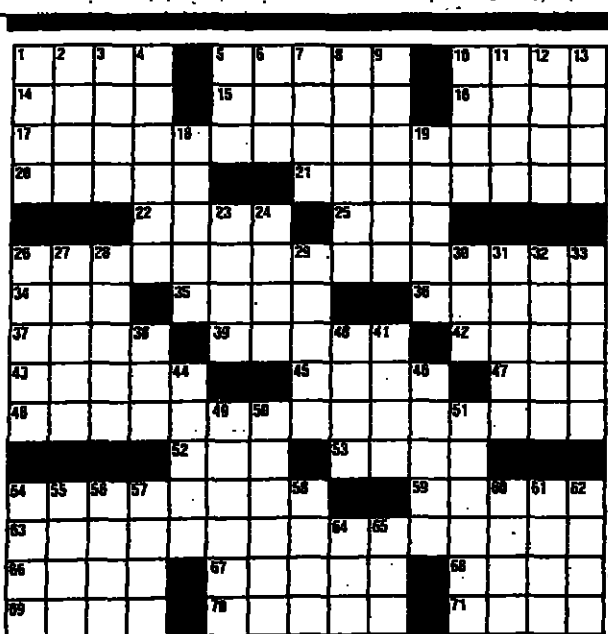
they started getting TPA on the average.

The patients waited nearly 20 minutes on the average in the hospital emergency room before undergoing an electrocardiogram (ECG) to determine whether they actually had a heart attack. If a heart attack was confirmed, it took another 70 minutes before TPA began on the average.

"In-hospital delays at the two academic and two private hospitals accounted for more than half of the total time from the onset of symptoms to initiation of ... therapy," the researchers said.

Based on the findings, the researchers recommended TPA routinely be given in the emergency room after an ECG has confirmed a heart attack.

TODAY'S CROSSWORD



- ACROSS**
- Utility vehicle
 - Personification of evil
 - Moslem holy man
 - Common abbr.
 - Fumble
 - Agent in place
 - Fastening; snare; Jack
 - Shouty mammal
 - He is held
 - That, in Tours
 - Everyone
 - Abridges; auxiliary; assega
 - Absorbs water; Abbr.
 - Rail
 - This galler has an army
 - Caesar conquest
 - Latin dance
 - Tease, in a way
 - Irish nationalist Robert 1778-1803
 - Church calendar
 - Garland
 - Fun; revealed; gourmet James
 - Land mass
 - Felt the effects of a blow
 - A lauder
 - Wager, Smith and Jackson; sifon
 - Sound quality
 - A day's march
 - French verb
 - Pour out
 - Actor George
 - Tear
- DOWN**
- Make merry
 - Miss Kelt
 - Wyatt
 - Flatfish
 - NGO
 - Airline abbr.
 - 'The Wind in the Willows' character
 - Seem
 - Snuggle down
 - Body of water
 - African warriors
 - Sunrise, to
 - Shelley
 - Wings
 - Apportion, with "out"
 - One of the media
 - Taco dip
 - D-day vessels
 - Samoan port
 - Summoned
 - 'What's in — ?'
 - Point of a mariner's compass
 - Knight wear
 - USSR's neighbor
 - Gay; historic
 - plane
 - Gun-crew member
 - Bridge call
 - Meadow
 - La —, 'Trinidad
 - Totals
 - Lacking substance
 - Stage awards
 - Pulls up
 - Freshen the atmosphere
 - Spring holiday
 - Concordes, for short
 - On
 - Ebb
 - Swerve
 - Party type
 - Chapeau's place
 - Merit
 - Made do, with "out"
 - Clean air org.
 - Salt, in Paris

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

ELISA SOLITIL SPICA
RAND ARID URAL
INIMITABLE BENE
CAPITAL ASSETS
RANS CLAIM
EASELS SUEDDING
SCARY LOOS ENOL
TAN MINGS ENA
ERSE AVES ACNEO
RAPTORES KNOUTTS
AHEMS PIYA
MERINO ELEGANT
ALEC SUPERDUPER
ALLIA ENERO LENA
MALL TIPISTY ADEIN

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
POINT AND COUNTER-POINT

Neither vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH

♠ Q 5
♥ Q J
♦ A Q 10 9 3
♣ A J 8 4

WEST

♠ A J 10 3 2 ♠ 9 8 4
♥ K 4 ♥ 10 9 7 5 3
♦ J 8 4 ♦ 7 5
♣ 9 7 5 ♣ 10 6 2

SOUTH

♠ K 7 6
♥ A 8 6 2
♦ K 6 2
♣ K Q 3

The bidding:

| South | West | North | East |
|-------|------|-------|------|
| 1 NT | Pass | 2 ♠ | Pass |
| 2 ♥ | Pass | 4 NT | Pass |
| 5 ♠ | Pass | 6 NT | Pass |

Opening lead: Nine of ♠

We remember more than 20 years ago when Christian Mari and Patrick Huang first blazed into international bridge for their respective countries. In 1989, now grizzled veterans of innumerable encounters, they crossed swords in the 1989 Bermuda Bowl matches, and thrilled the spectators.

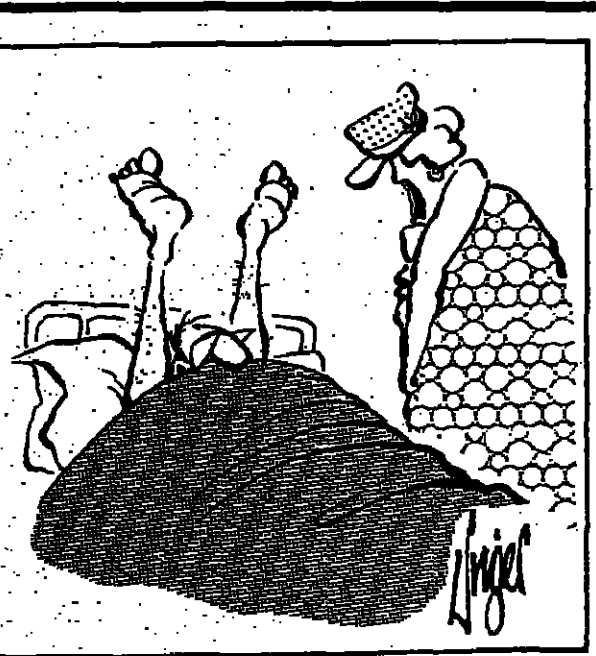
North's two-club response was a

partnership agreement designed to allow him to ask for aces at his next turn. He settled in six no trump when he found there was an ace missing.

Sitting West, Mari found the safe lead of a club. Huang won in hand and immediately led a spade to the queen. When that held, the straightforward way to make the contract would have been to try the heart finesse. That would have resulted in a one-trick defeat.

Instead, Huang started cashing his minor-suit winners. Foreseeing an endplay, Mari's first discard was a low heart, baring his king! Then he pitched two spades on the last diamond and fourth club. Mari now had come down to the ace and jack of spades and king of hearts, while declarer had the bare king of spades and ace and another heart.

If West had reduced his holding to a singleton ace of spades and two hearts, declarer could guarantee the contract by throwing him in with a spade to force a heart return. After some thought, Huang decided to credit Mari with stellar defense. Declarer led the queen of hearts from dummy and, when East followed low, rose with the ace to felly the king and land the slam!



"They're gonna settle out of court."

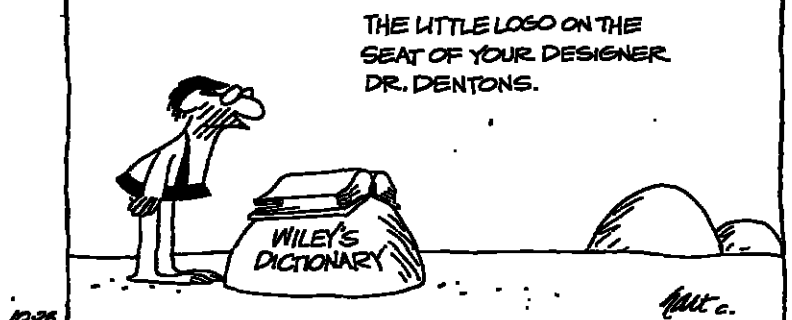
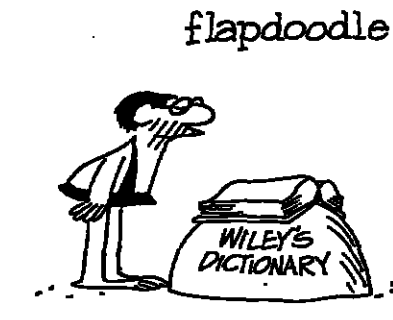
THE WIZARD OF ID

By Brant Parker and Johnny Hart



B.C.

By Johnny Hart



YOUR STARS



Aries (March 20 - April 18)

Remember that you can be generous in other ways than merely with money. You should not expect everyone to do just what you would like them to do. Take a little better care of your health. Be moderate.



Taurus (April 19 - May 19)

Avoid behaving as though you were ten years younger than you are, but do not think you are too old either. You will not have time to do all you would like to do so avoid wasting any. Make sure you get sufficient exercise. Be attentive.



Gemini (May 20 - June 20)

You will tend to be jealous for no good reason and should try to control yourself. Make sure you do not spend more than you can readily afford. And ensure that your partner and family come first. Be amenable.



Cancer (June 21 - July 21)

You are more liable to lose things so take extra care. Make sure your partner does not feel neglected or unwanted. A little time spent tidying up is far from wasted. Be a little more cautious.



Leo (July 22 - Aug 21)

Give others the benefit of any doubt. Do not think you know the answers to everything and do not be ashamed of admitting if you do not know. Avoid being fast at the expense of accuracy and quality. Be resolute.



Virgo (Aug 22 - Sept 21)

Not everything will be to your liking, but nothing is as bad as it could have been. Beware of eating too many sweet things or of drinking an excess of alcohol. Do not place too much reliance on your memory; it is liable to deceive you.



Libra (Sept 22 - Oct 22)

Something you learnt recently will now prove its value to you. Your lucky numbers are 10 and 18. You should avoid trying to deceive others; if you do you will be found out. Try to have a good laugh at yourself. Be frank.



Scorpio (Oct 23 - Nov 21)

You will be able to do something which has not been possible for some while now. Make sure you do not spend more than you have bargained for. Take a little extra care of your health. Be polite.



Sagittarius (Nov 22 - Dec 21)

Do not be shy of showing your love. You should demonstrate just a little more goodwill towards others. This is not a good time to do anything too much out of the ordinary. Be reliable.



Capricorn Dec 22 - Jan 19

You will have an opportunity to make amends and should be sure to take it. You will feel rather more optimistic than of late but should not become complacent. You should not spend too large a portion of the day pursuing a hobby.



Aquarius (Jan 20 - Feb 18)

If you try to have everything your own way you will not succeed. There are some constructive factors and you will be able to make use of them. Ensure that you are dressed correctly for the climate and occasion. Be sincere.



Pisces (Feb 19 - March 19)

You will have something of a disappointment but you should try to take it in your stride. You will have plenty of energy but must avoid dissipating it. Do something extra to please your partner. Be tactful.

SNIPPETS

8 Car thieves fall: Eight suspected car thieves were arrested by the Anti-Carnapping Unit (ACU) members of the Northern Police District over the weekend.

The suspects were members of the notorious "Cannibal gang," police said. Seven others, including the mastermind, are still at large, said NPD chief Brig. Gen. Edgar Dula Torres.

Dula Torres identified the gang members now in the ACU-NPD jail as Mauro de Sagun, 26; brother Miguel, 24; Arturo Dizon, 30; Cesar Balcos, 33; Gerardo Aquino, 24; Luciano Sangalang, 30; Manuel Mandia, 42 and Manuel Nicolas.

Dula Torres withheld the names of the other members of the gang pending their arrest.

Policemen led by Lt. Victor Buenaventura first arrested the De Sagun brothers, Dizon, Balcos and Aquino in the gang's hideout in Barangay Pulang Lupa, Sta. Maria, Bulacan on Sept. 6.

Police recovered from the suspect a dark blue Mitsubishi Galant with plate number NRR-356, a white Toyota Corolla with plate number PCX-403 and a jeep with plate number CHP-494.

On Sept. 7, another team of policemen composed of Sgt. Lorenzo Hernandez, Cpl. Ramon Esquerro, Cpl. Jose Valencia and Cpl. Fred Vicencio arrested Sangalang, Mandia and Nicolas in Bagong Silang, Caloocan City.

Recovered from them were a red motorcycle and the skeletal frames of two Nissan Sentra cars. The missing parts of the two Nissans have already been sold by the gang, police said.

Dula Torres has recommended to Capcom chief Brig. Gen. Alexander Aguirre that the ACU policemen be given INP efficiency medals.

Cebu Germans yield marijuana, bullets: Immigration agents raided a rented house at dawn and arrested two West Germans on charges they were members of an international drug syndicate, officials said.

The raiders seized one half pound of marijuana from Markus Manfred, 26, of Heidenheim an der Brenz, and Wolfgang Christian Gerhard, 32, of Detmold, said Danilo Almada, regional chief of the Commission on Immigration and Deportation.

The agents also found over a dozen disposable syringes, a 12-gauge shotgun and 70 rounds of ammunition during the 5:30 am raid on the house in the village of Liloan on the outskirts of this central port city.

Manfred and Gerhard were to be flown to Manila later to face deportation proceedings, Almada said.

Almada said authorities are looking into the possibility that yachts are being used to smuggle dried marijuana leaves from Cebu to foreign countries. The two Germans arrived in Cebu by yacht.

In Manila, the military arrested two Taiwanese nationals who are also believed to be members of another foreign drug syndicate, officials said.

Brig. Gen. Pantaleon Dumlaog, chief of the Philippine Constabulary's Criminal Investigation Service, said Tan Kong Chow and Yan I Ning were driving along Manila's red light district of Ermita when narcotics agents arrested them.

The agents confiscated about 200 grammes of a synthetic drug similar to cocaine from the two, Dumlaog said.

During interrogation, Tan admitted hiding the drug in his apartment and in a bank's safety deposit box, Dumlaog added. Agents recovered another half kilo (one pound) in his house and are seeking co-operation with the bank to recover the remaining drugs.

Shabu 'seller' nabbed: A woman storeowner suspected of selling shabu to rich Cavite residents and to showbiz personalities was arrested by Narcom and Criminal Investigation Service (CIS) agents during a buy-bust operation in Imus, Cavite.

Lydia Camaisa, 47, of Sitio Pasong Santol, Barangay Anabu II, Imus, when arrested yielded 35 grammes of shabu, shabu paraphernalia and a weighing scale.

The shabu was placed in a plastic bag and three plastic tubes, said Cavite Narcom chief Capt. Vicente Alloro and Capt. Benjardi Mantale of the CIS District IV command.

Camaisa allegedly had been using her variety store in Sitio Pasong Santol as trading centre where her rich clients from Cavite and several showbiz personalities regularly got their dope supplies.

Several informants tipped both Alloro and Mantale of Camaisa's trade.

Barangay chief ambushed: A barangay captain who had led a demolition of squatter shanties in Pasig last December was killed in an ambush by three men.

Ernesto Cruz, 50, chairman of Barangay Ugong, suffered two bullet wounds in the chest and nape. Both slugs exited through his eyes.

Investigators said the killing took place in front of the barangay hall on Legaspi and E. Santiago streets.

Police said Cruz was talking to two of his councilmen when two men with a .38 revolver and a .45 appeared at 8:45 am.

Without a word, the men fired at Cruz. Another arrived and stood as a lookout near the gate of the barangay hall.

When Cruz fell dead, the suspects took his .38 revolver from his waist and fired another shot in his nape.

3 Manila dads quit: Three Manila councillors tendered their irrevocable resignation from the Metro Manila Councillors League (MMCL), over the weak leadership of their president.

Councillors Humberto Basco, Corazon Caballes and Susana Ong accused MMCL president Ponciano Subido, also a Manila councillor, of being "unreasonably harsh in language and attitude towards some of us."

The three councillors' resignation had been triggered by Subido's non-assistance to Councillor Karlo Butiong who had been recommended for a one month suspension by the city council for conduct unbecoming of a public servant.

Sources said when Vice-Mayor Danilo Lacuna asked who kicked the wood panel during the council's session, Subido immediately pointed to Butiong.

"Imbes na pagtukpan niya si Karlo itinuro pa niya," a councillor told *People's Journal*.

"Subido's actions speak of the equivocal stance which is not a proper attitude of a leadership," Basco said.

Caballes and Ong notified the paymaster not to deduct monthly contributions to the league from their pay.

How they raped, killed girl: The August 29 murder of a club receptionist was solved following the arrest of two men who confessed to the crime.

Arrested were Rey Deniega, 23, of 169 Aurora Blvd. San Juan, and Rolando Diaz, 28, said Quezon City homicide chief Lt. Fluto Casayuran.

Policemen led by Cpl. Carmelo Lopez arrested Deniega in his house in San Juan. He admitted participation in the murder of Marilyn Canoy, 20.

Deniega later led lawmen to Diaz.

Deniega and Diaz said they planned to kill Canoy on Aug. 28, to get even with her. They said they were both courting Canoy, who worked in Rolando's Club in Pasig, and she rejected both of them.

"Meron kasi siyang ka live-in na taga-Customs," Deniega and Diaz told *May*, *People's Journal*.

Deniega and Diaz waited for Canoy at the Broadway Centrum waiting shed where she always waited for her ride home after coming from the club.

"Bandang alas-tres na ng madaling-araw nang makita namin siya," they said.

Deniega said he approached Canoy and asked her if they could talk somewhere near the Carmel church just 50 metres away.

As they walked to the church, Deniega signalled Diaz to follow. Beside the church, Deniega said, he and Diaz raped Canoy. They decided to kill her after the rape, Deniega said.

They stabbed Canoy several times before leaving her, Deniega said. Col. Rodolfo Garcia ordered the filing of murder and rape charges against Deniega and Diaz before the Quezon City fiscal's office.

Slain by pa, son: A man was stabbed to death and his brother was seriously wounded by a father and a son in Valenzuela.

Wilfredo Pinpin, 35, of 9 Salinas St died from a stab wound in the chest.

Pinpin's brother, Cornelio, 23, got three stab wounds in the body. He is in critical condition in a hospital.

Francisco Macaraeg, 63, also of Salinas St was arrested by police minutes after the stabbing. His son Rodolfo, 21, escaped.

Police investigator Cpl. Ernesto Reyes told *People's Journal* the Macaraegs, reeking of liquor, terrorised the neighbourhood at 11 am and challenged them to a fight.

When the Macaraegs stopped in front of the Pinpin house, they taunted the brothers to come out. Reyes learned from witnesses.

Before the brothers could even pacify the Macaraegs, the latter stabbed them.

The soul of sorcery: friendship and rescue

ADVENTURE, excitement, myth and magic make Willow a must-see movie for children and adults as well. Producer George Lucas and director Ron Howard tell the movie's story of friendship and rescue so engagingly that people should find it easy to get swept away by the companionable tides of illusion and reality that ebb and flow throughout the production.

Willow is in fact the name of a peaceable "Nelnwyn," a little person who, more than anything else in the world, wants to be known as a sorcerer. His family discovers a "Daikini" (normal-sized) baby floating on a weed raft in the river. It turns out that the child is being hunted by the forces of the evil Queen Bavmorda because it has been foretold that the baby will put an end to the accursed queen's reign.

The Nelnwyns are afraid that the baby's presence in their village will bring the queen's wrath upon them, so their leader decides that Willow should give the baby to a Daikini. Alas, that human turns out to be Madmartigan, a warrior who has become a thief. Since he can't take care of the child, as promised, Willow has to step into the fray again as the queen's daughter, Sorsha, makes another attempt to capture the child.

The rest of the movie involves these principal characters in



Val Kilmer (as Madmartigan, left) and Warwick Davis (as Willow) draws a plan to save the baby from the villains in this scene from the fantasy-adventure movie, Willow.

chases, capers and scrapes that are made more exciting by the fact that, by this point, the audience has been made to care exceedingly for the baby, Willow, and even the tainted madmartigan, who is redeemed by the bravery he demonstrates after he is affected by Willow's love for the child they are protecting.

Thus, the adventure aspects

are well balanced by the story of friendship, and these elements are in turn counterpointed by dazzling scenes of magic and sorcery, splendidly imaginative sets, and fine special effects. One particularly astounding sleight-of-eye is the transformation of a good witch from a muskrat to a crow, to a goat, to an ostrich, to a tiger, and finally to her original

human form. This is cinematic sorcery of the first order, and wonderful to behold.

Warwick Davis, the midget who plays Willow, is effective because he takes his character's mission to heart. He feels so intensely about the baby's safety that the audience becomes similarly protective of the child. Davis goes beyond the "cute"

performance that midget actors traditionally contribute to a production. This is also true of the other actors in the movie — Val Kilmer as Madmartigan, Joanne Whalley as Sorsha, and Jean Marsh as the evil queen.

Marsh patterns her characterization after the evil queen in the cartoon feature, Snow White, but she adds a human dimension that provides tension and texture as no cartoon character ever could.

Kilmer and Whalley play adversaries at first, but they are subtly drawn to each other and end up as "antagonistic lovers" whose constant quarrels complement those of two wee "Brownie" characters who act as Willow's sidekicks, and the production's court jesters.

But the performer who pulls the entire production together is the baby who plays the child who is to bring the evil queen to her knees. Strictly speaking, babies don't perform, so much of the credit for this child's strong showing in the movie must go to director Howard, first for casting the right child in the role, and second for waiting patiently for the child to come up with the right expression for a given moment.

In any case, the finished "performance" is a joy to behold because the baby reacts so well to whatever stimulus is presented to her. With the fate of such a lovely

and delightful child hanging in the balance, no wonder the audience roots so enthusiastically for the good people in this movie.

Director Howard, who earlier did Cocoon and Splash, is the right person to tell George Lucas' story in filmic terms. Unlike other directors who allow special effects to upstage a fantasy tale's human elements, Howard makes sure that the heart of this production is not chilled by technical wizardry.

The movie's story may be a stitching together of some well-known fantasy plot devices, but its sum total is definitely more than its parts. This is because the people involved in the production do their best work as professionals and believe in the movie's story of friendship, of people discovering what is good in themselves and letting it affect others.

The inspiring view of life and challenge is best summed up by the awkward Willow's eventual transformation into the master sorcerer that he's wanted so much to become. This happens when the evil queen has subdued all of his friends, and the baby's life is in his hands.

This moment of great danger finally focuses his energy and quickens his mind, undermining the evil queen's own magic, and enabling good to win the day, as it must, as it should — and that's no fantasy.

Population growth and early marriages

THE decline in age at marriage, the low level of sex awareness among the young and the high incidence of young marriages due to general irresponsibility among the young can conspire to increase the contribution of our adolescents to the rate of growth of the Philippine population.

Director Corazon M. Raymundo of the UP Population Institute gave this observation at a recent forum held at PCEH Hostel. Sponsored by the UP Centre for Integrative and Development Studies, the forum was based on her research paper "Filipino Adolescents: Their Implication for Philippine Development."

Her paper recognizes the important role of the youth in the Philippine future. It provides a broad sketch of the dimensions of youth experiences as a way of showing the path of their development or preparation for the future and their educational, economic and demographic profile and family-related characteristics.

Raymundo notes that adolescents provide a glimpse into the intensity and quality of activities of the near future as indicated by

the level of their skills and physical and social preparations. She says some observers note that the youth are victims of new circumstances in their environment which the adults have created as they perform their functions. "A number of youth-specific social concerns have either recently emerged or are now more visible in the country in the form of child prostitution, drug addiction, street children, early premarital pregnancies and abortion," she adds.

As an economy progresses and labour becomes more specialized, the youth's response is expected to be staying longer in school as higher levels of skills are required. Statistics on the respondents' educational preparation confirm this fact: Raymundo says more people stay longer in school as evidenced by the rise in college and high-school educated and a corresponding decline in the number of dropouts from grade school during 1979-80. But it is highly possible, she explains, that difficulties in creating new jobs have made schooling an attractive alternative to those who cannot find jobs.

Raymundo adds that increases in work and school-related activities among the young are expected to result in late marriages as the former have proved to be effective alternatives to early marriage. But still women marry much younger than men and are therefore marrying older cohorts of men. The mean age of wives in marrying is 18; the husbands, 22. The average age gap at marriage between the bride and groom is four years, according to a 1982 survey.

Young marriages happen owing to "youth outbursts" such as premarital sex or premarital pregnancy, says Raymundo. Most of the young wives married at a very young age, and this proportion is highest among those who married in their teens. They did so because they believed they were ready for marriage; others were so much in love that marriage seemed to be the next step to take. Still others were pushed by unpleasant circumstances in their families.

Raymundo says marriage is believed to be the next logical action to take or an escape from difficult situations.

Player protection threatened

THE coming expansion draft has sent danger signals to benchwarmers and so-called undesirables in the PBA. The prospect of winding up in a team not to a player's liking is an inescapable reality that is causing pangs of anxiety among marginals around the league.

Each existing club will be allowed to protect only nine veterans, meaning four will be exposed in the expansion draft. According to PBA commissioner Rudy Salud, the two expansion franchises will be limited to picking up two players from each team regardless of whether Pepsi Cola or RFM-Cosmos opts to choose one or none from a particular roster. That means an existing club can lose as many as four veterans at the end of the raid.

Salud said the expansion draft will be held in the first week of January with the amateur stakes following a few days later after clubs assess their requirements in

the wake of the losses. Pepsi and Cosmos will flip a coin to decide which team chooses first in the draft. The team that picks first in the expansion draft will select third behind Presto and the other new club in the amateur pool.

In 1986, the PBA held its first-ever expansion draft for new-comer Alaska Milk on a protected seven format. But the eligible veterans included only players with active contracts and ruled out free agents with expired pacts due to the right-of-first-refusal clause. That allowed Alaska to pirate only four veterans, Ponky Cola or RFM-Cosmos opts to choose one or none from a particular roster. That means an existing club can lose as many as four veterans at the end of the raid.

But in the next season's draft, the available talent will include players with active and expired contracts as a trade off for clubs to hold on to nine veterans.

Considering the lean pickings in the amateur pool the new clubs are focusing their attention on the expansion draft even as Alejandro de Guzman, Jun Reyes and Eugene Quilban have already been predicted to be chosen 1-2-3.

San Miguel Beer is expected to lose four players in the draft because of its talented bench. Norman Black will no doubt freeze Hector Calma, Yves Dignadice, Samboy Lim, Tonchi Yturri and Alvin Teng. But he's got a lot of soul-searching to do in deciding the four others to protect.

Aging Ramon Fernandez will probably be included despite his controversial background and years. Ricardo Brown has made a successful comeback and should be good for a least another two years. Elmer Reyes would be a top choice to keep but there are rumours he has been offered a fantastic contract by RFM-Cosmos. If Reyes decides to stay, he will be most welcome by Black. If not, his spot on the protected list could be taken over

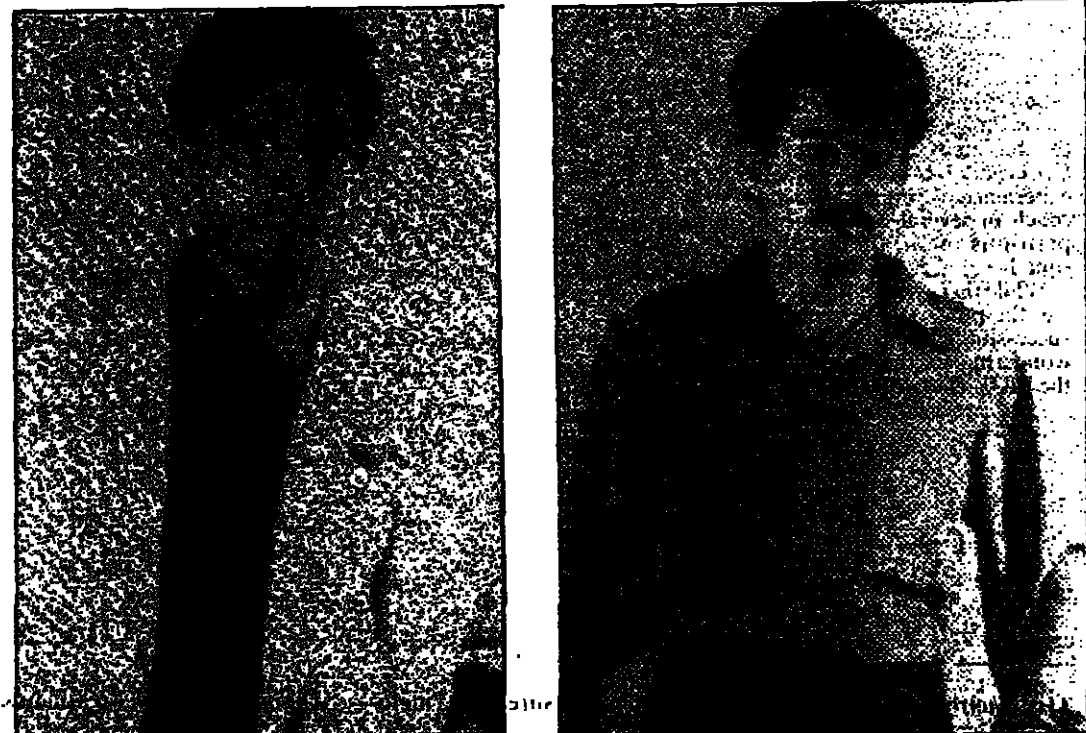
by Bobby Jose. Franz Pumaren or Ato Agustin will be left unfrozen. That's a tough decision to make. Pumaren's brother Derick is in the San Miguel coaching staff. Besides, Pumaren's fundamentals and experience are more valuable. He delivers cold from the bench and is less erratic than the spittish Agustin. RFM-Cosmos has indicated it will grab Agustin in the expansion draft if he's available. Two expendables are Alfie Almario and Jeffrey Graves. There is no doubt Graves will be named by either Pepsi or RFM-Cosmos.

Another club that will be a target for raiding is talent-laden Purefoods. Baby Dalupan is expected to freeze Alvin Patrimonio, Jojo Lastimosa, Nelson Asaytono, Jerry Codinera, Dindo Pumaren, Al Solis, Glenn Capacio and possibly Nanning Valenciano. That would leave out Jake Tanuan, Sonny Cabatu, Tony de la Cerna, Alolor and Pido Jarencio.

Dalupan will probably protect Tanuan in such a case due to Purefoods lack of a legitimate centre. Alolor and Jarencio will be prize catches in the draft. Cabatu is good for spot duty and should find a place in the lineups of either expansion team.

Alaska Milk should retain Boy Cabahug, Yoyoy Villamin, Bong Alvarez, Rickie Marata, and Dong Polistico. Then the rest could theoretically be up for grabs. Ravanes, Eric Altamirano, Rey Lazaro and Willie Pearson could be added to the protected roster, leaving out in the cold the injury plagued Frankie Lim, Relosa, Joel Santos and youngster Dondi Roque.

Anejo Rum will likely unprotected Peter Aguilar, Nando Garcia, Harmon Codinera (or Romy Mamaril), and Tano Salazar (or Philip Cezar). Sonny Jaworski isn't giving up to stay, he will be most welcome by Black. If not, his spot on the protected list could be taken over



Marden Iglesias-Jet Klok collections

Jeffrey Veloso (L) wears this linen shirt paired with a gaberdine rayon leisure jacket ribbed at the cuffs by Marden Iglesias while Clark Miller dons Jet Klok silk shirt over black pants. These are some of the designs included in the Silhouette '90 collection presented at the Heartbeat Mega Disco in Dec. Iglesias goes back to back with Klok who will show off her lingerie look for the '90s and holiday collection. Silhouette '90 is directed by Ed Ponceja.

Mother Jackie Lou knows best

JACKIE LOU BLANCO plays so many roles in her life, but there's only one she knows she can play best — that of being a mother to her son, Kenneth. Which is why she disdained all the modernist warning against breastfeeding ("It'll make you sag," etc.) and insisted on nourishing her child with her own milk.

"It was part of our training under the Lamaze method of childbirth. I became convinced and now truly believe that breastfeeding is best for my baby," she reveals.

She's so convinced, in fact that she agreed to help Bunso, a non-governmental organization that promotes breastfeeding, in their work.

In today's world of quick formulas and too-busy mothers, it's very heartwarming to know that there are still people like Jackie Lou around — especially in the beauty-conscious entertainment world.

Asked to prioritize the various roles she considers herself to be playing, she listed being a mother as the first, followed by family member, performer, and friend. She further subdivides her role in showbiz into hosting, singing, and acting. And is equally happy in either of them.

What makes us worry, though, is that she doesn't

seem to know which of these three showbiz roles she's best at. Many people, including myself, think it's in acting where she can best acquit herself. TV hosting isn't such a big deal; she isn't cut out to be singer like her mom — but in acting, she has already proven herself.

Now that she's a mother and has experience the pain and ecstasy of that role. We are sure she can bring a lot more feeling and depth into whatever acting jobs may be handed her from her on.

The commitment of women as wives and mothers often denigrates them — making them forget their own potentials and talents. No wonder feminists often decry these roles. The commitment is greater in Western countries, where household help is at a premium. But in our country, we're lucky to have household help available — which gives women a chance to go out and make something of themselves in addition to their already formidable roles of mother and wife. A chance to realize their own selves. To be the best that the Creator meant them to be.

Jackie Lou doesn't claim to be the best homemaker. "There are so many things that I still have to learn. Even about table service," she confesses.



Blanco is essaying a new role as a spokesperson for Bunso, an NGO that promotes breastfeeding. She is shown here with children from the Bunso feeding centre.

JP 11/15/90

Will RFM-Cosmos choose Guiao?

NOW that Pepsi-Cola has announced the appointment of Ed Ocampo as its head coach, fans are left to speculate who RFM-Cosmos' choice will be. It appears that youthful Yeng Guiao has the inside track on the job although experts aren't ruling out a surprise pick from the veterans ranks.

Formula Shell is also shopping around for a new coach with Dante Silverio's contract being allowed to expire.

Several names have cropped up in the derby, including sports-caster Joaquin Trillo and Cebuano Jun Noel for Shell. Former national mentor Joe Lipa remains a possibility for RFM-Cosmos despite his horrendous history in the pro league. Turo Valenzona, who once coached for RFM in the PABL, is another option. Valenzona was recently sent to the US for exposure to new basketball techniques by Manila Mayor Mel Lopez.

Ocampo is the only sure bet for the moment. He was named to take charge of the Pepsi Club by chairman Moro Lorenzo, a former Ateneo star. Ocampo will be backed up by assistant Booby Littau. The Pepsi manager is another ex-Blue Eagle Steve Watson, a former pro. Ocampo returns to the PBA with four titles tucked under his belt.

Guiao, 28, led RFM to the 1987 PABL Invitational and 1989 Freedom Cup titles. He also piloted an amateur selection that upset South Korea at a recent international tournament in Japan. Guiao, an ex-University of the Philippines guard and son of the incumbent Pampanga Governor, has gained valuable experience acting as assistant coach in several overseas competitions with the national squad.

While there is no doubt Guiao has the potential to become a successful pro coach, fans are wondering whether he is ripe for the PBA. The problems of keeping pro egos in check and con-

trolling players emotions loom large in a PBA coach's agenda. Guiao may not be ready to face up the mammoth task of matching wits with the likes of Baby Dalupan, Norman Black and Sonny Jaworski.

Still, RFM-Cosmos isn't likely to make a hasty decision on its final choice as head coach. Of course, there remains the hope that the club will be able to lure Jaworski away from Anejo Rum. In such a coup, Jaworski will take over as playing coach for RFM-Cosmos with Guiao probably sitting on the bench as his assistant.

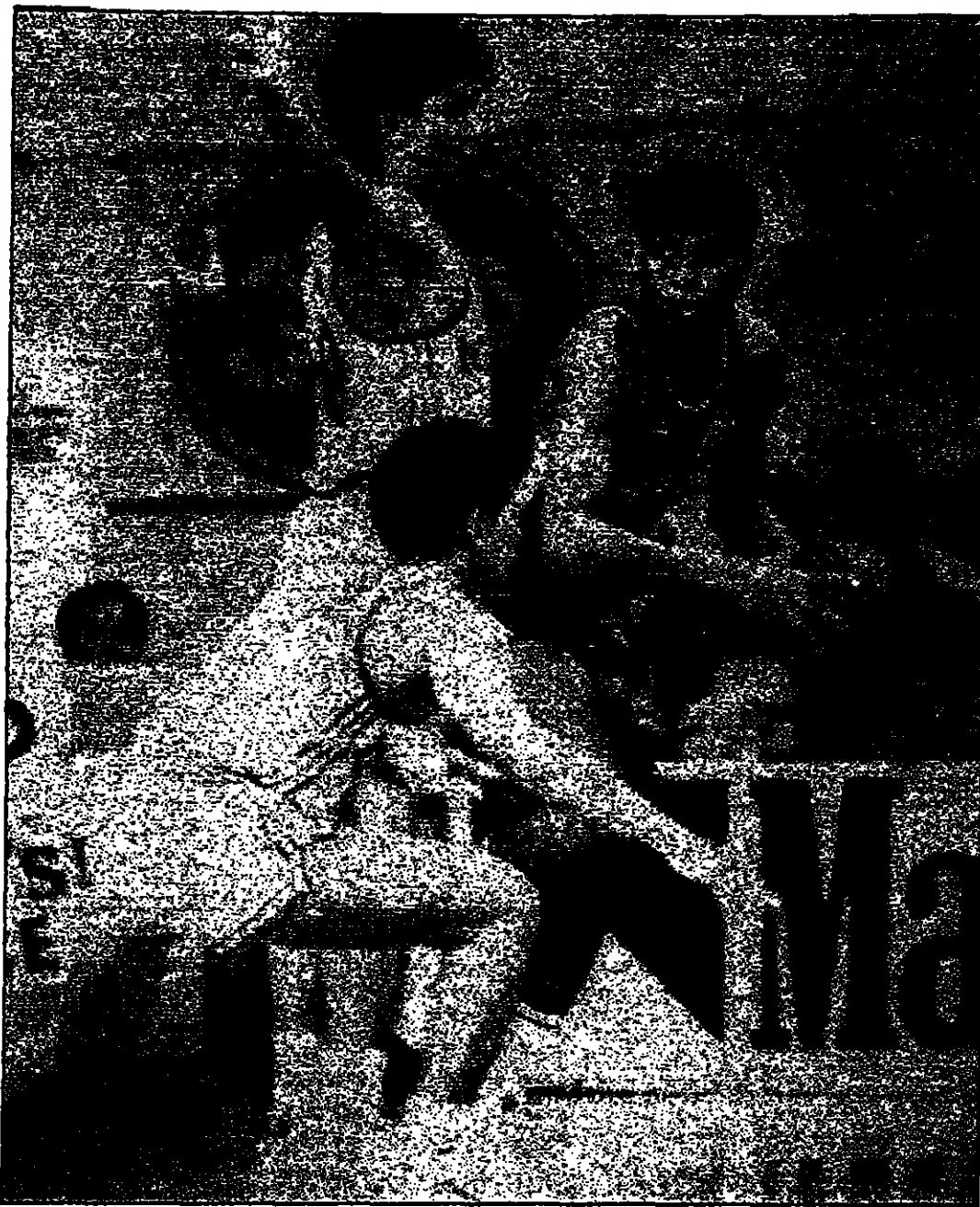
The PABL San Miguel Beer Cup couldn't have ended on a more exciting note. It was a down-the-wire finish as Bacolod was stretched to the limit in turning back El Rancho Cebu for the P30,000 first prize and a giant four-foot trophy.

At the climax of the double round eliminations, three clubs were tied with identical 8-3 records. Bacolod, Cebu and Pampanga figured in the three-way logjam. Pepsi Davao could've made it to the elite cast but it lost 103-99 decision to Pampanga on the final day of eliminations. Ironically, Davao was the only entry that Bacolod failed to beat in the entire tournament.

Bacolod gained an automatic finals slot due to its highest quotient, leaving Cebu and Pampanga to slug it out in a winner-take-all showdown for the other championship ticket to the best-of-three series. Cebu eventually knocked off Pampanga, 91-86, for the right to meet Bacolod.

In the title playoffs, Bacolod drew first blood with a 95-83 triumph. Ron Jacobs protege Richard Mendoza, back in lethal form, combined forces with Vernie Villarias to power the Negreses from a 68-all tie with 10-25 left for the easy victory.

But the determined Cebu squad stormed back to even the count, barely taking the second game, 81-80. In the rubber match, Mendoza once more led



The Bacolod assault as coach Jun Noel's charges escaped with a close 84-82 squeaker. The tournament was a rousing

tribute to PABL chairman Oscar Villalobos' brainchild of drawing participation from provincial clubs in a separate loop to allow

an even and keen competition. Fans were certainly treated to an exciting format that deserves to be repeated.

Six for the 1989 Metro Manila Film Festival

THE Metro Manila Film Festival got off on Dec 25, with six entries in contention for box-office supremacy and awards.

Vilma Santos' fans hope that her comeback team-up with Christopher de Leon, *Imortal*, will be completed before the festival's deadline.

Another possible entry, Pangarap sa Ginto, has dawn Zulueta, Dina Bonnevie and Timmy Cruz in full thespic froth.

Also in the running is *Student Body*, with some cage stars on their first film outing.

The idea is to come up with representative film types to interest different groups of moviegoers in patronizing the festival offering. Another important draw is the number of big stars who headline the official festival entries, so organizers hope that productions starring the likes of Ramon Revilla can make it to the official list.

As always, however, people who want the metro filmfest to be genuine festival hope that at least some of the official entries will be worthy and substantial productions.

After all, the festival gives cash incentives for the best work, so films of exceptional quality should be forthcoming, or else those incentives would go to undeserving movies.

The people selecting the official entries have to exercise great care and judgement in coming up with the final list, because their decision will establish the filmfest true intent in a most crucial way.

Zoren Legaspi can now breathe a sigh of relief: after months of waiting his first movie, *Student Body*, will finally be shown, so people can see if he is indeed "the new Richard Gomez."

The movie takes Romnick Sarmenta's "Education" in First Lessons and multiplies it by four. Aside from Zoren, Jeffrey Santos, Cris Villanueva and Aljon Jimenez are also taught the facts of life by sexy "teachers" Maia Soriano, Maritoni Fernandez and Sylvia Sanchez. Maritoni, Rudy Fernandez's niece, started her showbiz career in Gabby Concepcion's sitcom, *OK ka, Tol*.



Legaspi makes his movie debut in *Student Body*.

Give a street kid a gift this Xmas

MASIGLA Centre, a live-in institution for street children, is looking for persons who want to give a gift to one street child this Christmas. Interested readers may do this by calling social workers Sylvia, Arlene or Rowena at 592392. Each caller will be assigned one child name, age and basic personality. "In this way, we hope that each of our children receive at least one present this Christmas," says Florence Caponong, head social worker.

Masigla was founded in 1988 by Leticia Gencoseo formerly of the DSWD, Sr. Clats of the good Shepherd and French social worker Dominique Lemay. It received its DSWD license as a child care institution earlier this year.

"Our policy is to love the children, listen to them and care for them. Maybe it is because of this that we have a relatively small number of children running away," says Masigla chairman Erlinda Cordero, who is also Dean of the Phil Women's University School of Social Work. As of the latest count, the centre have served 108 children aged 4 to 15. Of this, there are 30-40 living in the centre at any one time. Thirty-seven have been returned to their families, and 27 have run away.

During its more than one year in operation, the centre has subsisted from funds donated by French individuals and companies. Filipino counterpart donations have started to come in, notably in form of a Play Therapy room constructed by the Manila Golden Lion's Club and a Karaoke system from the Philippine Navy.

"We need more resources to strengthen our different educational, skills, recreational and psychiatric activities," says Martina Riviere, an education specialist sent to Masigla by Enfantec Paragay. "To do this we need more funds, materials, people, and surely there are some Filipino who could help in some way. Perhaps it is now time to make the Filipino people aware of the gravity of the problem of street children."



Street children learn the basics from a volunteer during impromptu class at Roxas Boulevard

CAVITE: Three persons, two of them brothers, were killed while another was seriously wounded when their vehicle was fired upon by unidentified armed men along Emilio Aguinaldo highway in Silang, Cavite.

Cpl Sozimo Ambojia, officer-on-duty identified the fatalities as Felipe T. Toledo, 60; Ananias Toledo, 42; and Julian A. Talatala, 45, family driver.

Ambojia said Ananias and Talatala sustained multiple gunshot and both died on the spot. Felipe died while undergoing treatment at the Velasco Community hospital.

Taken to the University Medical Centre was Leviticus Toledo, 35, a cousin of the two Toledos. Doctors gave him a slim chance to live.

Investigation conducted by Pat. Antonio Bacalzo of the Silang police station disclosed that the victims who were on board a semi land cruiser were on their way to barangay

Mataas na Buroi when unidentified armed men positioned along the highway fired at them.

MANILA: The Department of Health (DOH) warned the public against rabies, a fatal virus infection of the central nervous system affecting all warm-blooded animals, especially dogs, bats, rats, and others.

"Man is infected most frequently from bites of such animals. The saliva of the infected animal contains the virus which attacks the brain and the central nervous system," DOH experts in rabies said.

In 1988, the DOH, through the physical education and immunization division, treated 27,584 cases with anti-rabies vaccinations. The 1988 figure shows a sharp increase from the 17,063 vaccinated cases in 1987.

The DOH said treatment of the disease takes time. The usual procedure is to evaluate the site of the wound and check the number of bites.

A period of 10 to 14 days is prescribed and if during that time, the animal shows symptoms of alteration in behaviour like barking in high pitched tones, restlessness, the patient is advised return to the clinic.

The head of the infected animal is cut off and sent to the Bureau of Animal Industry where its brain is examined for rabies bodies, the major factor in determining the extent of the disease. The patient is treated with the anti-rabies vaccine for seven to 10 days.

Once the patient shows symptoms of depression, insomnia, hydrophobia, convulsions, flow of sticky substances from the mouth, and maniacal symptoms, he is expected to die within two to three days, DOH experts said.

MANILA: The Economic Intelligence and Investigation Bureau (EIIB) seized a 40-foot van containing cotton woven fabric worth P4 million with fake release documents.

It also seized a truckload of various electronic goods and perfumes from Hong Kong for alleged violations of the customs and tariff law.

EIIB National Capital Region Director Guillermo L. Parayno Jr said the P1 million hot goods were taken out of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport terminal.

Parayno told EIIB Commissioner Jose T. Almonte that a customs broker and a customs appraiser denied having signed the release papers of the fabric shipment from Singapore consigned to a Binondo firm. He added only P213,185.45 in taxes and customs duties was paid for the shipment, instead of the right amount of P1.6 million.

BARANGAY: A barangay leader and travel firm executive has asked his constituents to help in the campaign against the drug menace.

Rollie Visitation, captain of barangay 8 and zone 2 chairman in Pasay City, noted that one of the major causes of crimes in the country is the proliferation of drugs.

Visitation, who is also manager of Continental Travel and Tours, expressed concern over the widespread criminality, saying this adversely affects the country's tourism programme.

He suggested that parents should help in the anti-drug campaign to prevent waste the children from the drug menace.

He urged that aside from

the military, civic and religious organizations should participate in the campaign against the drug menace.

MAKATI: Renaming of Alvarado St. in Legaspi Village in Makati to Don Carlos Palanca Jr. St. has been approved by the Makati municipal council.

Authorized by Councilor Pacifico Reyes upon the suggestion of Mayor Jejomar Binay, Resolution No 141 was unanimously approved by the council.

The resolution provides that the renaming of Alvarado St. in Legaspi Village is in honour of the late Don Carlos Palanca Jr., a Makati resident, former chairman and president of La Tondena Inc. and Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co. and benefactor of Palanca Awards for Literature.

Simple rites for the official renaming will be held at 9 am today, Nov 18.

Invited to grace the occasion are Mayor Binay, members of the Makati municipal council, and Palanca's friends and business associates.

LAOAG CITY: The town of Piddig, Ilocos Norte has a special place in the heart of Sen Joseph Estrada (LP).

Recently, he donated P140,000 to finance the construction of an electrification project in sitio Cullayao, barangay Sta Maria of that town.

Estrada's assistance was disclosed by Piddig Mayor Gene Aquino during the recent election of LP provincial executive committee officers here.

Elected were chapter head Castor Raval, chairman, sangguniang panglalawigan member Fe Acosta Aguinaldo, vice-chairman; Mayor Aquino, secretary; SP member Purissima Bueno, treasurer; Dingras Mayor Wilfredo Parado, auditor; SP member Victor Aguilar, PRO; and SP member Angel Respicio, legal officer.

BALANGA: Bataan: A councilor of Mariveles, this province is facing a charge before the circuit trial court for alleged violation of Presidential Decree 1067, otherwise known as the Water Code of the Philippines.

Provincial Prosecutor Rustico R. Mallari approved the filing of the complaint upon the recommendation of Assistant Prosecutor Manolo V. Velasco who conducted the preliminary investigation.

The case arose from the alleged illegal construction of two houses by respondent Lucio Concepcion on the bank of the Cabacben River which was reported to the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH).

DPWH investigator Esmundo S. Lagui said he filed the complaint with the provincial prosecutor's office after Concepcion refused to remove or dismantle the structure. The structures cause obstruction in the river, Lagui said.

During the preliminary investigation, Concepcion submitted a counter-affidavit in which he admitted that he constructed the two houses. He said the structures do not impede the flow of water in the river.

ROSARIO, Cavite: Social Welfare Secretary Mita Parado de Tavera visited Cavite over the weekend to look into the plight of the victims of typhoon "Saling" who were given assistance by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD).

At simple rites held at the municipal hall of this town, Secretary Tavera distributed P1,000 each to the families of the 19 fatalities of the typhoon in this province.

The 19 victims are residents of the coastal areas of Rosario, Maragondon, and Bacoor. Most of the victims were fishermen who drowned at sea.

Secretary Tavera urged the bereaved families to organize themselves into a group so that they can take advantage of the DSWD's self-employment assistance programme.

In Cavite City, Secretary Pardo de Tavera co-ordinated with Mayor Julian Medina through the DSWD Regional office in providing shelter assistance to families whose houses were totally damaged.

She turned over P2,000 to Rolando Dy of barangay 10, Cavite City whose wife, Fatima and son Billy perished during the typhoon.

CEBU CITY: The Central Visayas regional office of the Bureau of International Revenue (BIR) has exceeded its collection goal for the nine-month period ending September.

It also surpassed its total collection for the same period last year.

BIR Regional Director Cirilo R. Francisco said that the regional office recorded a total collection of P1,243,486,607.40 from January to September, this year. Its collection goal for the period is P1,170,546,000. The increase is P72,940,607.40 or 6.23 per cent.

He said that the collection for the nine-month period this year was 46.68 per cent or P395,704,337.75 more than the total revenue collected during the comparable period last year.

Francisco said that because of high collection goal set by the BIR central office, two of his revenue district offices failed to meet the assigned goal this month but they increased their collections for the nine-month period.

He said that for the same period, revenue district office No. 59 in Mandaue City headed by RDO Jimmy Santiago collected P365,208,881.47 as compared to its 1988 collection of P236,870,292.82. RDO No. 60 in Cebu City headed by RDO Estelita C. Aguirre, P668,720,937.33 as compared to P549,000,04. RDO No. 60-A in Talisay, Cebu under RDO Jess Bacaltos, P178,738,656.32 as compared to P39,700,993.13. and RDO No. 61 in Tagbilaran City (Bohol) headed by RDO Sofronio Gabales, P30,818,132.28 as compared to P22,210,406.66.

MANILA: The Manila City Council has approved on second reading the building of a new P5.75 million public market in Tondo.

Construction of the market was sponsored by Councilors Flaviano F. Concepcion Jr. and Francisco G. Varona Jr. The plans and cost estimate for the two-storey market were prepared by the city engineer's office. Concepcion told the council that the Pampanga public market, built before World War II, is dirty and dilapidated.

Concepcion said the market, which has 314 stalls leased to 124 stallholders, is not capable of serving the needs of second district residents. The council said it expects Manila Mayor Gemilano Lopez Jr. to approve the measure because he himself noted the need for a new public market in Tondo.

MANILA: The National Crusade for Good Government (NCGG) asked Congress to review the land reform law "that negates the very principle of land to the tiller."

Retired Brig. Gen. Pedro Balanero and Dean Antonio Coronel, NCGG founders, urged the call for a restudy of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law (CARL), "which provides a loophole by which vast landholdings could be kept from the reach of tenants through the so-called stock option."

They cited Nobel Prize awardee for economics Gunnar Myrdal and other land reform experts who look at an effective land reform programme as the key to industrialization.

MANILA: A group of civic, business, and religious leaders in Valenzuela, Metro Manila has appealed to President Aquino to put an end to a quarrel among the officials in the municipality.

The leaders said that the rift has hampered the delivery of basic services to the residents. Valenzuela Rep. Antonio M. Serapio also appealed to the local officials to set aside their differences and work together for the improvement of the delivery of the town's essential services.

Serapio said that he will call the attention of Local Government Secretary Luis Santos to the conflict between two factions of local officials.

MANILA: A Metro Manila civil leader has urged the immediate dismantling of private armies "if we are to attain free, honest, and clean elections in the future."

Victor Benitez Jr., the director of the An Masbatano Association of Metro Manila (AMA), said "the indiscriminate use by politicians of private armies to achieve their political ends has prostituted the entire electoral process and has made a mockery of the right to free choice."

Embassy corner

Results of the Mindanao plebiscite: 'the people have spoken'

IN accordance with the Philippine constitution and pursuant to Republic Act No. 6734 creating the autonomous region for Muslim Mindanao, otherwise known as the "Organic Act," the plebiscite for its ratification was held on November 19, 1989 in 13 provinces and cities in the Southern Region of the Philippines.

The results of the plebiscite are as follows:

Yes for four (4) provinces namely Tawi-Tawi, Sulu, Lanao del Sur, and Maguindanao;

No for nine (9) provinces namely Basilan, Zamboanga del Norte, Zamboanga del Sur, Lanao del Norte, Comotan, Sultan Kudarat, Palawan, Cotabato, and Davao del Sur, and nine (9) cities namely Zamboanga City,

Cotabato City, Marawi City, Iligan City, Dipolog City, General Santos City, Pagadian City, Dapitan City, and Puerto Princesa.

With the results of the plebiscite proclaimed by the Comelec, elections for the autonomous region's officials have been scheduled for February 12, 1990.

Serious threats of violence from rebel groups who intended to disrupt the plebiscite at all costs failed to deter the electorate as freely guaranteed by the democratic system and ensured by the government, through institutions tasked with maintaining peace and security during the whole electoral process.

The final result of the plebiscite is the best argument against those who may

otherwise question its credibility.

Neither opposition groups who intensively campaigned against ratification, nor critical observers have dared to point misdeeds during the conduct of the referendum, since such accusations might remain largely unsubstantiated. Indeed, as a constitutional process, the plebiscite was an outstanding success.

President Aquino's information drive and call for active participation by those affected by the proposed autonomy, certainly reflects the government's sincere desire to determine, in the most democratic manner possible, the will of the people concerned.

That the Organic Act was ratified by four provinces with the largest Muslim populations and not by any group is a

stark repudiation of the rebel MNLF, which has repeatedly announced full control over these areas, and which reportedly constitute their broadest and strongest mass support. Sulu, one of the four provinces that voted YES, is the home province of the MNLF leader. More than ever, the plebiscite's results proves to be a major setback for the MNLF, casting deeper doubts on their capability as a force to threaten the government.

President Aquino's statement on the results of the political exercise that "the democratic process prevailed and the people have won" speaks for the government's sincere commitment to implement autonomy as the law so declares.

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Salmiya overcome Yarmouk Shuwaikh rout Keifan

By Sonny Mariano

WITH only a few playing days left in the elimination round of the L&M-PBAK Winter League, defending champions Shuwaikh-Chiquita sealed their place in the finals after rousing 4-0 victory on Friday over Keifan-BMW.

The Banana Magnates who seem to be unstoppable in all their previous encounters were paced by Lando Caburao with 593, Rico Pino who scored 582 and Arthur Reyes with 526. The BMW Speedmasters with their hopes for a seat in

the finals greatly hampered by their setback has Mohammed Seraj (523) and Nashat Mohammed (518) as their best shot makers.

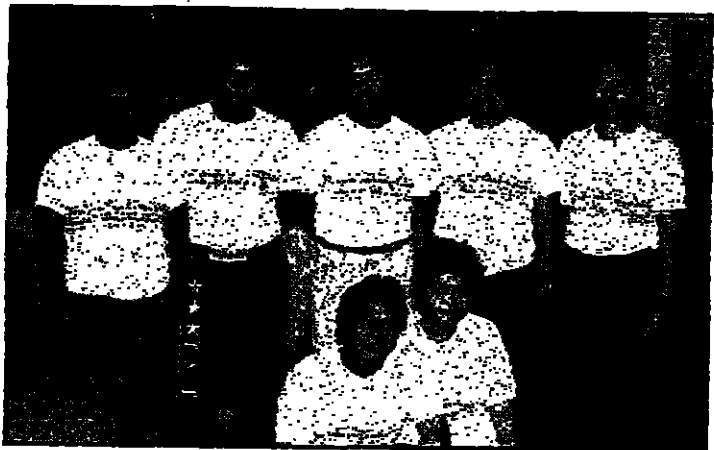
In the games played on Thursday, Salmiya-NTC continued to hang on to a slim chance of making it to the finals by downing Yarmouk - Tectron 3 games to 1. The Traders who were facing a player shortage depended on Mar Evanagelis (546), Enrie Landrite (545) and Anukul Sae Tang (539) to eke out the victory. The Tectron high tech specialists, who only managed to win one point, were led by Bojo

Hamdan (502) and Victor Choong (489).

In the only other game on Thursday, Keifan-BMW and Mahboul-Jokers drew their match with an even 2-2 score. The top scorers for Keifan were Mansour (532), Cora Paras (548) and Mohammed Seraj with 509. For the Jokers, Dan Proctor (543) and Al Rodier (534) were the top scorers.

The Mahboul-Jokers on the other hand came back from a drawn game on Thursday with a win over Murgab-City Intl./Far East Bank, 3-1. Debbie Proctor on her way to leading her team to victory submitted the High Game (222) and High Series (584) in the women's group. Debbie's record breaking feat was complimented by the good showing coming from Bob Peek (538) and Jerry Fox (500). The Money Dealers have Beng Gutierrez who scored an equally impressive 565 as their best bowler.

And finally, Faiha-NTC B dished out their best performance in the League by demolishing Jabriya Club 3 games to one. What makes the Junior Traders' victory more noteworthy is that they achieved it with a blind score in all the 3 games they played. Khalil Al Salim (572) and Celso Estrada (567) were responsible for Faiha's well deserved victory while the rest of the team is composed of Bert Papis team captain, Yacoub Al Khandari, Mel Carvera, Bobot Labicani, Nonoy Maranba, Grace Pangandian and Manny Regalario.



The Salmiya-Al Rashed squad (from left): Wally Flores, Saad Al Khazi, Milo Coronado, Rene Carbardo, Joe Bilog, Beda Borja and Angie Borja.



Edwin Borigas (left) receives his prize for finishing 2nd runner-up.



Kabayan owner Rory Aurellano hands out consolation prizes to other finalists.

Filcheck holds award ceremony

THE Filipino Chess Club in Kuwait (Filcheck) held its much awaited awarding ceremony of the just concluded First Active Chess Tournament on Friday at the new Kabayan Restaurant.

Rene Mostrales, legislation committee chairman, in his welcome speech cited the club's objective of promoting camaraderie and unity among its members and projecting the good image of the Filipinos as a community in Kuwait through the game of chess.

The respective group top finishers of the elimination round namely Ali Maca-ayan, Wally Soriano, Rading Moje, Edwin Borigas, and Danilo Calasin each received a trophy donated by Trico Int'l and a wrist watch courtesy of Jun Mercado, a candidate for Kapilku president.

Filcheck logo design contest winner, Thony Monreal, received a Sony Cassette/Recorder from Karim Kitamura of Sony Supplying Store and an Arabic-Filipino-English dictionary from its author Farid Lian.

Top awardees of the final round with their respective prizes are:

Rene Mostrales, 5th runner-up, trophy, dictionary, Sony



The top finishers in various groups with Edward Racaza (2nd right) and Reggie Wijesinghe (right).

Cassette; Thony Monreal, 4th runner-up, trophy, dictionary, Sony Cassette; Niel Dumlaog, 3rd runner-up, trophy, dictionary, Adawlah Cassette; Edwin Borigas, 2nd runner-up, Trophy, dictionary, Adawlah Cassette; Danilo Calasin, 1st runner-up, trophy, dictionary, Sony Cassette; Nanding Policarpio, champion, trophy, dictionary, Kasp-arov chess computer.

Reggie Wijesinghe, station manager of Trico International,

and author Farid Lian presented the prizes to the winners.

Other finalist namely Jess Betugan, Teddy Lagmay, Wahab Alamada, Sammy Aurellano, Adrian Perez and Nilo Magtan-gob, each received a dinner-for-two voucher from the new Kabayan Restaurant presented by its owner Rory Aurellano who is also the master of ceremony.

The Kabayan Singers composed a Grace de la Fuente,

Mher Lumbang and Yolly Rapada rendered some song numbers during the programme.

Acting Filcheck president Edward Racaza, in his closing remarks thanked all the club's sponsors, donors, supporters, officers and members for making its first tournament a big success. The sponsors were then presented plaques of appreciation by Mon Coronado, tournament committee vice-chairman, Rene Mostrales and Edward Racaza.

Johnson to meet Lewis in rematch

LONDON, Dec 23 (AP) - Ben Johnson and Carl Lewis will meet in a \$3.2 million rematch of their Olympic 100-metre final on Sunday after Johnson's suspension for drug use expires.

The Daily Express, a mass-circulation British newspaper, said US boxing promoter Bob Arum was lining up the race in Barcelona for Sept 25, 1990.

"I don't know how news of this got out," the newspaper quoted Arum as saying. "There is a lot of money riding on it. I am not prepared to make any comment."

Johnson beat Lewis in the Olympic 100 metres final in Seoul in September 1988, but two days later was stripped of the gold medal after testing positive for steroids.

Barcelona is the site of the next Olympics, and Johnson has said repeatedly since admitting to long-term steroid use that he wanted to run in the 1992 Games. Olympic officials have said he would be welcomed back.

England edge past World XI

THE Kuwait Premier League hosted the first England vs Rest of the World friendly at the Sabel Sports Stadium on Tuesday — and what a treat it was for the myriad fans who braved the cold December evening.

The England team (playing in B.M.W. F.C. colours) certainly lost no time in getting warmed up as they were immediately put under pressure by the extremely fast Yoshiaki (Japan) who came close to scoring in the first few moments of play.

The R.O.T.W. team continued to press for an early goal but the England team under the captaincy of Barry Crouchman were able to weather the attack without too much discomfort.

England were left off the hook, however, when in the 25th minute Yoshiaki was brought down in the box, but to the delight of the English fans, he proceeded to blaze the ball over the cross bar.

It was a rather different story in the second half, however, as the England team threatened to

overrun. With the R.O.T.W. attack being superbly contained by Wake, Edwards, the England midfield took control of the midfield and Steven Kebly's hopefuls were all at sea.

The inevitable goal came midway through the second half, when after clinical passing by the England forwards, Alan Wild was left with the task of crashing the ball past the hapless McGowan (Scotland).

England continued to pile pressure on the lacklustre opposition and would have netted a couple of more goals were it not for the industrious work of lanky John Weir (Scotland) and Hugh Daley (Ireland).

England continued to push the Rest of the World defence to its limits, and the whistle was greeted with an audible sigh of relief by the overworked multinational team, leaving skipper B. Crouchman to hoist a loft the winner's trophy.

Kingdom, Farmer-Patrick honoured

Evans, Barrowman top swimmers

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo., Dec 23 (Reuters). The US Olympic Committee yesterday named hurdlers Roger Kingdom and Sandra Farmer-Patrick as its Athletes of the Year, while Mike Barrowman and Janet Evans were honoured as the top swimmers.

Kingdom won indoor and outdoor world championships in the 60 metres hurdles and 110 metres

hurdles respectively, took the 100 metres title at the World Cup in Barcelona and also set a world record in the event of 12.92 seconds.

Farmer-Patrick won the 400 metres hurdles in the World Cup. Barrowman broke two world records in the breaststroke during the year, while Evans remained the women's premier distance swimmer with a world

record in the 800 metres freestyle. Other athletes of the year included women's combined world champion Tamara McKinnay in skiing and world champion Bonnie Blair in speedskating.

The oldest athlete of the year was 51-year-old Ed Eliason in archery while the youngest was 13-year-old Jennifer Capriati in tennis.



Lawson to go for fifth world crown

EDDIE LAWSON clinched his fourth world title in the only way he knew — battling for the lead on his Rothmans Honda. He only had to finish in the first 11 in the final round of the series at Goiania to take the title but like a true champion he wanted to race!

"I was enjoying my race with Kevin at the front until a backmarker crashed in front of me and I had to slow the pace," revealed Lawson drinking champagne on the winner's rostrum.

"This title means more to me than the other three. So many people wrote me off when I switched from Yamaha to Honda at the beginning of the season that I was determined to make them eat their words."

He added: "I'm so happy to win the title for my team who have worked so hard for me this year. They've backed me up whenever I've felt low and we spent many long hours testing, which has really paid off."

Lawson's fourth world title puts him on a par with former British stars Mike Hailwood, Geoff Duke and John Surtees, while Italian Giacomo Agostini is the only rider to win more 500cc Championships. Lawson is now the most successful American Grand Prix rider of all time with Kenny Roberts and Freddie Spencer both having won three titles.

"I don't really give these facts and figures too much thought during the season," said the 31-year-old Californian. "However, I'm very proud to have won more titles than Kenny and Freddie. I always knew we were in with a chance of the title and people were writing me off even when I was finishing second and third. The first Grand Prix win of the season in Spain really gave us confidence. The championship victory has been all about hard work by the team and it's all paid off."

Lawson is looking forward to next season because he is already thinking about title number five.

"I'm still totally motivated about racing motorcycles and I think that is why I have been so successful," explained the champion.

"I also enjoy my quiet life back at home in Upland, California. There I can relax at the lake and get away from the pressures of the Grand Prix. I think it is very important."

Eddie Lawson confirmed in Brazil what many people already knew. He is the greatest Grand Prix motorcycle rider of the last decade and one of the truly great champions in the 40-year history of the sport.



Government Warning: Smoking is a major cause of cancer and diseases of the lungs, heart and arteries.

Victoria overcome Lankans

HASTINGS, Victoria, Dec 23. (Reuters): Sri Lanka, preparing for a one-day cricket tournament with Australia and Pakistan, suffered an embarrassing defeat in a limited overs game against a Victorian Country XI today.

The Country XI scored 175 for seven in reply to Sri Lanka's 174 all out to win by three wickets with two balls of their 50 overs to spare.

Sri Lanka, who lost one-day game to the Victorian state side by 109 runs yesterday, were without four Test players, who were rested ahead of next week's World Series Cup one-day tournament.

Battling first on a lively wicket, Sri Lanka plunged to 32 for four before Gamin Wickremasinghe and Asanka Gurusinha steadied the innings with a 68-run fifth wicket partnership.

Wickremasinghe top-scored with 53 and tallener Ramesh Ratnayake struck out late in the innings, scoring 30 from 31 deliveries.

Scoreboard

SRI LANKA R Ratnayake c Bedford b Doyle 4
A Samarasekera c Cooper b Jackson 19
H Tillekeratne c Hille b Jackson 3
S Jayasuriya c Cooper b Doyle 4
A Gurusinha c Cooper b Lillo 28
C Wickremasinghe c Reed b Bedford 53
Asoka de Silva c Rolland b Lillo 3
C Ramaniyake b Reed 5
R Ratnayake c Jackson b Doyle 30
R Madurasinghe run out 10
K Wijegunawardene not out 1
Extras (lb 5 w 7 nb 2) 14
Total (49 overs) 174
Fall of wickets: 1-42 (2-26 3-32 4-32 5-100 6-117 7-129 8-132 9-168)
Bowling: Doyle 9-2-38-3 (1w 1nb), Jackson 10-2-22-2 (4w), Johnson 8-2-27-0, Reed 10-0-33-1, Lillo 10-0-37-2 (2w), Bedford 2-0-12-1 (1nb).

VICTORIA COUNTRY XI
J Hille c (sub) Amal Silva 20
B de Silva 4
G Cooper c Jayasuriya 11
K Bartholomew c Samarasekera b Jayasuriya 22
Wull c Tillekeratne b Gurusinha 30
R Bedford c Samarasekera b Madurasinghe 38
D Rolland lbw b Gurusinha 12
S Johnson not out 8
T Doyle b de Silva 8
Extras (lb 3 lb 10 w 8 nb 1) 12
Total (seven wickets, 48.4 overs) 175
Fall of wickets: 1-32-38-3-75-4-123-5-152-6-153-7-166
Did not bat: J Lillo, R Jackson.
Bowling: Ratnayake 7-0-12-1 (4w), Ramaniyake 5-0-22-0 (1w 1nb), de Silva 10-2-29-2, Wijegunawardene 6-1-21-0 (2w), Madurasinghe 10-2-30-1, Jayasuriya 5-0-25-1, Gurusinha 6-4-0-23-2 (1w).
Result: Victoria Country XI won by three wickets.

BRIDGE

LOLLO Murtwhait and Nahil Akel won the Tanagra Bridge Tournament, held by the SAS Ladies Bridge Club, at the SAS Hotel on Sunday, Dec 17. Rima Ayad and B. Mikail took second place while Margaret Maynard and Suzanne Cattermole took third place.

The tournament was directed by Donna Materny, who was assisted by Blanca Mousalli. The prizes were presented to the winners by Sami, the representative of Tanagra, who had donated all the awards.

The participants thanked Tanagra for helping make the tournament a success.

Results of Sheraton bridge game played on Tuesday:

1. Sokolowski & Wolkiewicz
2. Salma Ali & Masoud
3. Tibab & Sherine

E/W
1. Dr. Reddy & Latala
2. Dr. Oskay & Nabir
3. Simon & Mukherjee

Two top Dutch soccer players come under fire

AMSTERDAM, Netherlands, Dec 23. (AP): Two key players in the Netherlands' national soccer team weren't there when the Dutch lost 1-0 to Brazil on Wednesday, and their absence has sparked a major flurry of recriminations marring the powerhouse of European soccer.

Marco van Basten and Frank Rijkaard, ace strikers with AC Milan, refused to turn up for the encounter in the run up to next year's world championship in Rome, forcing coach Thijs Libregts to include four rookie players in his lineup.

The dismal match that followed left the ruling European champion at Brazil's mercy and could have led to carnage for the Dutch if the South Americans had tried harder.

Hours before the match, Van Basten said he had to recuperate from a World Cup match by AC Milan in Tokyo last Sunday. Rijkaard said he had the flu.

Their cancellations have been termed a "wildcat strike" in the Dutch media, and former Dutch coach Rinus Michels has accused Rijkaard and Van Basten of "repulsive" behavior.

A third Dutch AC Milan player, world famous scorer Ruud Geulit, recently underwent his third knee operation, putting his role in the Rome championships seriously in jeopardy.

"Just cancelling a match because you're not feeling that well and not even bothering to turn up is unheard of anywhere else in Europe," Royal Dutch Soccer Federation spokesman Fred Racke said yesterday.

"It's harmed our performance because we weren't able to line up the team we wanted. Our relationship (with Van Basten and Rijkaard) has become a lot more tense because of the affair," Racke said.

He claimed the cancellations followed extensive stonewalling by AC Milan, which was apparently reluctant to let the two Dutch players go.

"First we got referred to a doctor, then the doctor pointed to a club official, then the official told us to go to the coach," Racke complained. When the Dutch federation threatened to claim a fine from AC Milan, Van Basten and Rijkaard claimed sick leave, he said.

"We were simply being kept at a distance," Michels said in an interview with the Amsterdam newspaper Het Parool.

United hold Liverpool



Liverpool's Ian Rush pulls the shirt of United's Steve Bruce as he tries to beat the United goalkeeper to the ball. (Reuters wirephoto)

when McClair was in the clear but shot high over from 12 metres.

Liverpool had another let off when goalkeeper Bruce Grobbelaar failed to collect a cross from Hughes which skidded across the goalmouth, narrowly eluding McClair and Clayton Blackmore.

Grobbelaar did save well twice at the feet of Hughes, while Steve McMahon provided Liverpool's only real first-half thrust with a

powerful dipping shot which Jim Leighton tipped over.

Just before the break a Danny Wallace corner found McClair unmarked in the box but again the striker, who has not scored for two months, steered his header wide.

United took a firm grip at the start of the second half and kept Liverpool pinned back for long spells.

Results
English Division One
Liverpool 0 Manchester U 0

| Scottish Premier Division | |
|---------------------------|---|
| Dundee U | 1 |
| Rangers | 1 |
| Alloa | 0 |
| Clydebank | 3 |
| Postponed from Dec 16) | |
| Meadowbank | 1 |
| Morton | 1 |
| Dumfries | 1 |
| Stirling | 1 |
| Queen's Park | 1 |
| Kilmarnock | 3 |
| Montrose | 2 |
| Queen of S | 3 |
| Stenhousemuir | 2 |
| Stirling | 1 |
| Stranraer | 0 |

| Standings | |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| English Division One | |
| | P W D L Gts Pts |
| Arsenal | 18 11 6 1 29 36 |
| Liverpool | 19 10 5 4 39 35 |
| Aston Villa | 18 9 4 5 28 31 |
| Norwich | 18 8 7 3 25 31 |
| Sheff Wed | 18 8 4 6 24 30 |
| Southampton | 18 7 6 5 30 27 |
| Chelsea | 18 7 6 5 28 27 |
| Coventry | 18 8 2 8 15 23 |
| Derby | 18 7 4 7 22 25 |
| Norwich | 18 7 4 7 23 25 |
| Everton | 18 7 4 7 24 25 |
| Manchester U | 18 6 4 8 24 22 |
| Crystal P | 18 6 2 10 27 22 |
| QPR | 18 5 6 7 21 23 |
| Millwall | 18 5 6 7 26 21 |
| Wimbledon | 18 4 8 6 19 22 |
| Sheff Wed | 18 5 6 7 20 20 |
| Luton | 18 4 7 7 20 24 |
| Charlton | 18 3 7 8 14 21 |
| Manchester C | 18 4 4 10 20 34 |

| Scottish Premier Division | |
|---------------------------|-----------------|
| Rangers | 19 11 6 2 26 36 |
| Aberdeen | 18 10 4 4 25 31 |
| Celtic | 18 8 6 4 26 31 |
| Hearns | 18 8 4 6 24 30 |
| Dundee U | 18 7 6 5 28 27 |
| Dumfries | 17 5 6 6 21 23 |
| Motherwell | 18 4 8 6 21 25 |
| Hibernian | 17 5 5 7 17 23 |
| St Mirren | 18 4 5 8 15 23 |
| Dundee | 18 2 6 10 25 41 |

Pakistan, Japan reach semifinals

NEW DELHI, Dec 23. (Reuters): Pakistan beat Malaysia 4-1 (half-time 1-1) in a Group A match in the Asia Cup men's hockey tournament today.

Group A standings (tabulate under played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, against, points):
Pakistan 2 0 0 6 1 4
Japan 2 1 0 1 3 4
Malaysia 2 0 2 3 7 0
Pakistan and Japan qualify for semifinals.

Becker has still to conquer clay

STUTTGART, West Germany, Dec 23. (AP): Boris Becker grew up on clay, but has yet to conquer that particular tennis surface.

Most experts believe Becker eventually will win a big one on the slow stuff.

But will he reach the same domination as he did on faster surfaces, gunning down opponents with his monster serve and fearless dive volleys?

"It's a different ball game on clay," said Becker, who improved his clay-court game this year by reaching the final of the Monte Carlo Open and the semifinals in the French Open.

Sweden's Mats Wilander, who won three French Opens and lost two other finals in Paris in the 1980s that made him perhaps the premier clay-court player of the decade, says Becker's all-around game has improved a lot during the past year.

"But he has especially developed his ground strokes and second serve," said Wilander, who knows so well that ground strokes and patience are the key elements to success on clay. "On a fast surface, Boris hits the ball so early. He hits winners from everywhere."

The one-time Wunderkind who dove for the championship at Wimbledon now is a rapidly maturing 22-year-old who has carried West Germany to the Davis Cup title for the second consecutive year.

At Stuttgart, Becker often won the long rallies as he dropped just 12 games in six sets to Stefan Edberg and Wilander in his two single matches.

A few years ago, Becker lacked the mental patience and stroke diversity to battle a baseliner stroke for stroke.

"A couple of years ago, I had to make the winner within the first three or four shots," Becker said. "Now it's almost as if I'm waiting at the baseline for my



Boris Becker

opponents to make a mistake."

Becker, now 38-6 overall in Davis Cup play, including 27-2 in singles, incidentally lost his last cup match on clay in 1987 against Sergio Casal of Spain at Barcelona.

On next year's new Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP) tour, Becker could get plenty of clay-court practice before it's time for the French Open, which ends June 10. Most of the championship series on clay in Europe will take place in April and May, forming a real circuit.

Becker may face some problems adjusting to a new racket. He recently signed a contract reportedly worth almost \$6.5 million with US Tech, an American company. Becker will start using the new racket next March, just before the European clay-court season opens.

But Becker's next goal is the Australian Open next month, when he hopes to take over the No. 1 spot from Ivan Lendl on the new ranking system.

Merit takes early lead

FREMANTLE, Australia, Dec 23. (Reuters): The Swiss yacht Merit held a narrow early lead in the third leg of the round-the-world race from Western Australia to New Zealand today.

The 23-yacht fleet, surrounded by spectator craft and watched by thousands of people on the shore, sailed out of the Indian Ocean port of Fremantle in 35 knot winds and rain.

Merit skipper Pierre Fehlmann, who won the last race four years ago, got the best start and had a narrow edge on overall race leader Steinlager, six nautical miles out of Fremantle.

The New Zealand ketch Steinlager, skippered by veteran round-the-world yachtsman Peter Blake, has a 14-hour advantage after winning the first leg, from Britain to Uruguay and the second across the frozen Southern Ocean to Australia.

Close behind the two leaders were three other

yachts Rothmans of Britain, Fisher and Paykel of New Zealand and Finland's Martala.

After the third mark of the course the fleet turned southwards down the Western Australian coast towards Cape Leeuwin and then into the Great Australian Bight.

On this 3,434 nautical mile leg of the course from Fremantle to Auckland the fleet will not face the danger of icebergs and the discomfort of sub zero temperatures that they experienced on the second leg from Punta del Este.

But Blake, who last year circumnavigated Australia in record time, knows the leg will be just as tough: "The boats will be closer together, and the weather will be much more unpredictable. In the Great Australian Bight, and the Tasman Sea conditions can change in an hour."

Bengals to take on Vikings

CINCINNATI, Dec 23. (AP): The Cincinnati Bengals face two daunting obstacles in Monday night's season finale at Minnesota: running back Herschel Walker and the Vikings' unbeaten record at home this year.

Minnesota, which needs a victory to assure a spot in the NFL playoffs, owns the league's only unbeaten home record this year with a 7-0 mark. The Vikings have 12 consecutive victories at home since October 1988. They are only 2-6 on the road this year.

"Seemingly, we play a little better here, with a little more confidence. Maybe the surround-

ings are more familiar to us," Vikings coach Jerry Burns said in Minneapolis. "Maybe it's our fans. I don't know. We're 7-0 here. On the road, we struggle."

Walker, meanwhile, represents another of the big-play running backs who have given the Bengals big trouble this season. Chicago's Neal Anderson ran for 146 yards in a season-opening victory over Cincinnati and Los Angeles Raiders back Bo Jackson rushed for 159 yards in another Bengals loss. The Bengals are 2-4 in games where an opposing back has topped 100 yards rushing this season.

Cincinnati, 8-7, must win Monday night if it is to have any

chance to get into the playoffs as a wild-card entry.

The Bengals' defence has bounced back in two of its last three games, shutting out Cleveland and limiting Houston in a 61-7 victory.

"The season has been on the line for the past four weeks and defence has risen to the occasion," defensive end Jason Buck said. "We know that we have to play great to win and the guys have come up to that level."

The Bengals have used different defensive techniques lately, including blitzing cornerbacks and linebackers and defensive linemen dropping into pass coverage.

Detroit 86-77 lead with just 3:53 to play.

76ers 89, Celtics 88
Ron Anderson made two long jump shots in the final minute as Philadelphia rallied from a 17-point deficit to beat Boston.

Boston was ahead 65-48 midway through the third period and still led 82-70 with seven minutes left before Derek Smith sparked Philadelphia's comeback, scoring nine of his 13 points. A three-point play by Smith closed the gap to 86-85 with 1:27 left.

Anderson's long jumper put Philadelphia ahead 87-86 with 55 seconds remaining, but Boston's Dennis Johnson drove the baseline to regain the lead for the Celtics.

| Results | |
|--------------|-----|
| Chicago | 125 |
| Philadelphia | 89 |
| Utah | 114 |
| Detroit | 96 |
| Denver | 137 |
| New York | 122 |
| Dallas | 101 |
| Houston | 102 |
| Milwaukee | 113 |
| San Antonio | 119 |
| Golden State | 150 |
| Indiana | 124 |

Pistons 96, Nets 90

Joe Dumars scored 27 points and Detroit held off a New Jersey rally in the fourth quarter.

Trailing 73-64 after three periods, the Nets came back to close the gap to 78-77 on Charles Shackleford's layup with 6:24 left.

But the Pistons scored the next eight points on two free throws each by Dumars, Isiah Thomas and Dennis Rodman and a basket by James Edwards to give

CHARLOTTE, North Carolina, Dec 23. (AP): Karl Malone scored career-high 52 points, hitting 22 of 28 attempts from the field, as the Utah Jazz defeated the Charlotte Hornets 114-100 last night.

Malone, who also had 17 rebounds, hit his last eight field goals as the Jazz held off the Hornets, who trailed only 100-94 with 4:14 left in the game.

But Malone's three-point play and breakaway dunk keyed a 10-0 run that sealed the victory over Charlotte, losers of 11 of 12 games.

Malone, who averaged 29.7 points in three previous meetings with the Hornets, had the fifth-highest single-game performance for the Jazz. It was also the highest individual performance against the Hornets in their two-year history.

Rex Chapman had 28 points for the Hornets.

Bulls 125, Hawks 113
Michael Jordan scored 29 points and the Chicago Bulls won a battle for first place in the



Michael Jordan



Rashed (2nd left) with Kuwait Tennis Federation officials.

Rashed wins GCC tennis singles title

KUWAIT'S Khaled Hassan Rashed returned from Dubai yesterday after winning the men's singles title at the Gulf Co-operation Council Tennis Championship.

Kuwait's three other players, Ayman Al Aswak, Khaled Ashkanani and Waleed Al Bannai, took part in the event which was held from Dec 20-22.

In the final of the singles event, Rashed had to beat Saudi Arabia's Saleh to take the crown.

The tennis delegation was headed by Sheikh Ahmed Al Jabbar Al Abdullah Al Sabah, and included Abdul Redha Al Ghareeb and Abdul Samad Aryan.

Rashed, who dedicated his victory to HH the Amir, HH the Crown Prince and Premier, and all the Kuwaitis, also won the Arab Tennis Championship in Baghdad last year.



Rashed shows off his trophy.



Al Bannai (left) with Ashkanani (centre) and Rashed.

Imran Khan concerned by Pakistan's poor fielding

LAHORE, Pakistan, Dec 23. (Reuters): Pakistan captain Imran Khan is concerned that his team's poor fielding will reduce their chances of success in the forthcoming Test series and one-day cup cricket tournament in Australia.

Imran criticised his players for their performance in the field in the recent series against India in Pakistan in which all four Tests were drawn.

"I have never seen so many catches dropped by our fielders and frankly this was the worst display in my whole career," he said.

"If we continue to field in the same manner we stand no chance of winning in Australia."

Pakistan arrive in Australia on Tuesday for a three Test series and World Series Cup limited overs tournament which also involves Sri Lanka.

Their recent twin success in the limited overs tournament in Sharjah and the Nehru Cup in India had boosted Pakistan's confidence and they won the one-day series against the Indians 2-0 but found them more than a match in the Test series.

Only two of the four scheduled one-day internationals were completed in a series disrupted by crowd violence and bad weather.

The third match in Karachi was abandoned when a demonstration at the stadium turned into a riot and the crowd began pelting the Indian fielders with stones and oranges.

India, who went into the Test series as underdogs, enhanced their reputation and were delighted by the performance of 16-year-old batsman Sachin Tendulkar who scored 215 runs, including two half centuries.

Veteran Indian all-rounder Kapil Dev completed 100 Test appearances and took 12 wickets to become the third highest wicket-taker ever with 359, and former Pakistan captain Javed Miandad became only the second batsman after England's Colin Cowdrey to score a century in his 100th Test.

Two uncapped players, leg-spinner Nadeem Ghouri and medium-pacer Maqsood Rana, have been named in Pakistan's squad of 16 for the forthcoming cricket tour of Australia.

The touring side, announced today, also includes batsman Mansoor Akhtar, recalled after a two-year absence from Tests, and off-spinner Tauseef Ahmed, who was overlooked for the recent series against India.

Newcomer Ghouri is given his chance after performing impressively in domestic cricket recently, while Rana was in Pakistan's under-19 side against India last year and also played in the inaugural Asia Cup youth competition in Bangladesh last month.

Mansoor, who played the last of his 18 Tests in England in 1987, took part in the one-day series against India that ended in Lahore on Friday and has been chosen for the tour following injury to opener Rameez Raja.

Rameez dislocated his left shoulder when fielding in the final one-day match against India, but team manager Intikhab Alam said he hoped Rameez would join the touring party after a three-week rest advised by doctors.

Tauseef, who has made 28 Test appearances, went on Pakistan's tour of New Zealand earlier this year but was not called up for the drawn four-match rubber with India.

Touring team: Imran Khan (captain), Javed Miandad, Mansoor Akhtar, Shoaib Mohammad, Aamer Malik, Salim Malik, Ejaz Ahmed, Saeed Anwar, Wasim Akram, Waqar Younis, Aaqib Javed, Salim Yousuf, Abdul Qadir, Nadeem Ghouri, Tauseef Ahmed, Maqsood Rana.

Hurdler banned

KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 23. (Reuters): Malaysia has banned for three months a hurdler who tested positive for drugs after winning a gold medal at the South-East Asian Games last August.

Sports authorities banned Zulkifli Yatim after random tests showed traces of the banned substance in his urine, officials from the Malaysian Amateur Athletics Union told reporters yesterday.

Zulkifli had admitted taking a traditional medicine but said he had not known it contained the banned substance, they said.